

Perceptions Newsletter

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

From the Desk of the Co-Chairs

Mindy Pennington & Paul Wright

The results are in...

Perceptions Members,

Last month, I wrote a call to action in this column. Based on the response at the February 27th meeting, you answered that call. We were awed by your response--the reception from everyone at the meeting was fantastic! Many members voiced their excitement about our 2003 Strategy and the sustainability of this organization. We also passed out a survey to gauge your interest in various programs. If you were not able to complete the survey, we also have it online at <http://www.perceptionsSV.org>. I am including a summary of the Strategy that Paul Wright put together for the meeting. Please review it, and continue telling us your thoughts, ideas, and how you want to contribute. We are not an organization without YOU!

Mission of Perceptions: **To provide visible leadership throughout the Greater Saginaw Valley which promotes equality, respect, and understanding of GLBT individuals.**

Prioritized Goals/Actions for 2003

Use meetings to determine need/desire for services for community

2003 Actions: Develop a survey for membership on paper and on-line for February Monthly Meeting
Develop small interest groups (based on survey results) at meetings or at other times
Publish board meeting minute summary in Newsletter
Invite donor members to attend each board meeting

Learn and adapt what we can from other organizations

2003 Actions: Meet with, and learn from, other successful organizations and ask questions

Develop a diversity strategy to promote and expose our diversity of all aspects – thought, in particular; differences of all kinds

2003 Actions: Develop and publish a statement on diversity with mission statement
Strategies for women, youth, parents, ethnic groups, business people, benefactors, etc.

Develop a media strategy - Use the media to be visible

2003 Actions: Place ads in local newspapers
Develop position statements for hot button issues
Develop outline of communication and media strategy
Promote letters to the editor by members

Strategy for building a coalition

2003 Actions: Plans for community outreach
Host multi-sponsored events
Conduct workshop with other community organizations

Develop a fundraising strategy

2003 Actions: Determine how much money we need and when
Find a grant writer within our membership
Solicit for ads on website
Fundraising events scheduled each quarter by Perceptions

Develop a speaker's bureau for visibility

2003 Actions: Develop key messages and template for presentations
Ask for volunteer speakers at member meetings

Upon request, meet local business and community leaders – present information

2003 Actions: Develop PowerPoint presentation in several formats: CD, overheads, PowerPoint
Continually identify gay-friendly businesses for presentation (members to suggest the businesses)
Put brochures at 10 businesses or agencies.



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

Calendar Highlights:

- **Wed. Mar. 19th 7-9pm**
Perceptions Meet & Greet at Bay City Coffee & Tea
- **Fri. Mar 21st The**
Womyn's Circle at Bay County YWCA
- **Sun. Mar. 23rd 2-4:30 pm**
PFLAG Meeting
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Midland
- **Thurs. Mar. 27th 7-9pm**
Perceptions Monthly Meeting, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Midland
- **Sat. Apr. 12 7-9 pm**
PFLAG/Perceptions Chocolate Party in Bay City.

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

Financial Coordination

Jeff Illig

I was truly moved at the support we received at February's meeting. My goal is to enroll at least six new donor members each month. Last week, we registered twelve donor members for 2003. That's a great start. If you attended the meeting and have seen this year's budget recap, you understand the financial resources it will take to fund our objectives. Donor memberships of \$20 per person per year provide the base for our other activities.

Last week bolstered my resolve and my hope that we will meet our needs. Between the donor memberships and a few free will donations, we raised \$378. THANK YOU. Hopefully, we'll see this level of support and interest at every activity we sponsor.

Yours in Service and Peace.....Jeff Illig, Financial Coordinator

Monthly Meeting Notes

diedra knox

Who Said We Didn't Have a Speaker?

Tim A and Dean B. stepped in and provided a rousing discussion about the joys of the RV life with Perceptions members at our last members meeting. Intended to be an after presentation for 15 minutes, this pair sparked conversation and interest from those present.



It seems that the Rainbow RV group is a Michigan Chapter of a National Group and provides wonderful outdoor camaraderie for GLBT persons and their families. One of the goals of the group is to encourage lesbian membership in an effort to build community among GLBT persons.

Camping, hiking, biking, backpacking, you name it and the opportunity to enjoy Michigan's outdoors is there. If this a first-time endeavor for you, grab a tent from a friend, bring the friend with you, and idle away a weekend with new friends.

See the website at www.rainbowrv.com. According to Tim & Dean, you haven't lived until you've "RV'ed".

Thanks to both of you for a great presentation!

www.PerceptionsSV.org

Board Meeting Highlights

Matt Turner



Opening doors for the Mid-Michigan GLBT Community

Perceptions
P.O. Box 1525
Midland MI 48641

Phone:
(989) 891-1429

Email:
board@perceptionssv.org

Meeting called to order promptly at 7:00 pm.

1. Review of January Minutes. Minutes approved.
2. Executive Committee Report
 - i. Paul & Mindy to meet with Triangle and Affirmations leadership to discuss the following: media questions, budget ideas, membership development and retention, grants and fundraising, bylaws and missions.
 - ii. Jeff presented budget and cash flow analysis as created by EC.
 - iii. Mindy presented the model for a membership survey to be passed out at the next membership meeting.
3. Retreat Action Items. Document presented outlining organizational goals and corresponding timeline.
4. Finance Report. Monthly review of ledger presented by Jeff.
5. Programming Update. Changes to existing schedule are as follows:
 - i. February, no commitments
 - ii. May, "American Friends Service Committee"
 - iii. June, (John Corvino) Vying for use of the Delta Lecture Theater
 - iv. July, Mary Jo Hall replaces Anne Clevering
6. Social Update. Doug presented the following updates to the social calendar:
 - i. Michigan PRIDE 14 June '03 – Booth cost \$75.00. Float design to be slightly re-tooled.
 - ii. Hearth Home organization is hosting an event at the Anderson Enrichment Center on May 4th and is looking for volunteers as well as a public speaker.
7. Communications Update. Charles is currently working on a design for a display advertisement to be used in print media.
8. Other business:
 - i. Paul recently met with various Midland Public School principals to discuss hosting Judy Shepard in conjunction with the school districts
 - ii. Valentines Party. Details such as decorations, timetables, and various responsibilities were discussed and finalized. Dance to take place Saturday 15 Feb. '03 at 8:00 pm in the Tittabawassee Twp. Hall, Freeland.



COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

March 19th Perceptions Meet & Greet - 7-9 pm -- Our traditional social monthly gathering at the Bay City Coffee & Tea, 810 Saginaw St., Bay City. This non-smoking coffee house has a variety of drinks, tasty innovative sandwiches and desserts for those with a sweet tooth. Come join the fun!

March 20th WOMEN AND GIRLS: THE LAW AND SOCIAL CHANGE CONFERENCE - University of Michigan League, Ann Arbor, MI 8:30 am-4:30 pm Panel Registration form: <http://www.aclumich.org/events/events.htm>

March 21st The Womyn's Circle, 7 - 9 pm. sponsored by the YWCA of Bay County and Perceptions. A low-key "safe space" to talk about coming out, life as a lesbian, and just plain life. Location: YWCA of Bay County, 3405 Midland Road, Bay City. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Anita Bowden at the **YWCA** at 989-686-4800 or Mindy Pennington at board@perceptionssv.org.

March 22nd Michigan Safe Schools Summit at EMU in Ypsilanti, MI. For more information: <http://www.glsen.org/templates/student/record.html?section=45&record=1549>

March 22nd DELTA COLLEGE GAY PROM For more information GLBTAprom@YAHOO.COM

March 23rd PFLAG Meeting 2-4:30 UU of Midland, 6220 Jefferson, Midland.

March 27th Perceptions Meeting 7 - 9 pm, UU of Midland, 6220 Jefferson, Midland. Featured guests are The Kormelink's & The Crane's of PFLAG – Tri Cities who will be speaking about the "PFLAG Safe School Program."

March 27-29th "Gay Shame" Conference <http://www.umich.edu/~lgqri/gayshame.html>

April 4th FIRST FRIDAY WOMEN'S POTLUCK – 7:00 pm. An evening in Bay City! For more details contact Mindy or Shelly at shellyandmindy@chartermi.net or 989-892-0323.

April 4, 5, 6, 11, 12 & 13 THE LARAMIE PROJECT - SVSU produces The Laramie Project
Box Office: 989-964-4261. Because of the small space buy tickets in advance. More information available at <http://www.svsu.edu/theatre/current.htm>.

April 11th – The Womyn's Circle, 7 - 9 pm. Sponsored by the YWCA of Bay County and Perceptions. A low-key "safe space" to talk about coming out, life as a lesbian, and just plain life. Location: YWCA of Bay County, 3405 Midland Road, Bay City. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Anita Bowden at the **YWCA** at 989-686-4800 or Mindy Pennington at board@perceptionssv.org.

April 12th PERCEPTIONS & PFLAG ANNUAL CHOCOLATE PARTY 7-9pm - Fundraiser to benefit PFLAG & Perceptions held at Terry Zajac's beautiful Victorian home in Bay City. Donation: \$5, more if you can, less if you can't. Contact Terry at 989-892-9188 for directions. <http://www.perceptionssv.org> or <http://www.pflag-mbs.org/>

June 14th – Michigan Pride Parade – Perceptions-sponsored float and booth will represent the Mid-Michigan GLBT community at the festival in Lansing. Volunteers needed! Email board@perceptionsSV.org for more info.

June 28th – Perceptions Car Scavenger Hunt – Imagine how much fun a scavenger hunt throughout the Tri Cities area would be with a bunch of your friends. Email board@perceptionsSV.org for more info.

July 19th – PFLAG/Perceptions Annual Garden Party – Terry Zajac graciously opens his exquisite garden bursting with color and wonder for this special fundraiser benefiting PFLAG & Perceptions. For further details email board@perceptionssv.org.

September 13th – Perceptions Annual Charity Golf Outing - Fundraising event at Maple Leaf Golf Course. Email board@perceptionsSV.org for more info.

December 11th – Perceptions Annual Holiday Party and Silent Auction – We'll have total access to the Montague Inn for a wonderful Holiday Party and Silent Auction with some very enticing Silent Auction items!