



PERCEPTIONS Newsletter

May 2005

Volume 4, Issue 5

PO Box 1525, Midland, MI 48641 989-891-1429

Equality in Michigan

Leo Romo

Chris Swope, Executive Director of Michigan Equality, speaks at the May 26th Perceptions meeting at Midland's UU Fellowship. Social gathering at 7 p.m. Speaker at 7:30 p.m.

[Michigan Equality](#) is a statewide, political advocacy organization dedicated to building a broad base of support to end discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Michigan Equality believes that the best way to advocate for LGBT people and our families is through the political process. It educates the constituents of Michigan, helps elect good people into office and lobbies elected officials.

Chris joined Michigan Equality in 2004 as the organization's first Executive Director. He is an elected Ingham County Commissioner, representing central part Lansing. As a Commissioner, he led the process of granting Domestic Partner Benefits for Ingham County employees.

Chris will talk about "Equality", specifically Michigan Equality.



Inside this issue:

- 1 May Speaker: Equality in Michigan
- 1 Pride Events: Make Pride and Take Pride
- 2 Guest Columnist: Day of Silence
- 3 Fundraiser Results
- 3 Newsletter Committee: Volunteer!
- 4 Attachment: Pride Float Contest
- 5 Calendar of Events: May/June

Make Pride and Take Pride

Vanessa Marr

June is [LGBT Pride Month](#), and we want you to join in the celebration! Perceptions will be participating in two of the state's largest festivals: Motor City Pride from noon until 7:00 p.m. Sunday, June 5 in Downtown Ferndale and Michigan Pride from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Saturday, June 25 in Lansing's Riverfront Park. Between the music, exhibits, and demonstrations, these events are wonderful places for communities to gather, celebrate, and activate!

Perceptions needs volunteers to help us make our presence at this year's festivals a memorable one. Plans are underway to create a new display board and decorate our booth area to highlight the people and activities that make our organization the "Pride" of Mid-Michigan! We also launched a contest for members and allies to put their creative talents toward adding the finishing touch to our float. Working under a "civil rights" theme, we hope to use our entry to attract media attention during the march to the Capitol.

In addition to float design, many opportunities are available including the following:

- Float construction
- Candy baggers (for distribution during the Michigan Pride parade)
- Float riders and marchers (Michigan Pride only)
- Booth Attendants (one-hour minimum)
- Carpool

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Craig Windt at Volunteer@PerceptionsSV.org or Vanessa Marr at Vanessa@PerceptionsSV.org. Let's give Pride participants something to talk about!



Day Of Silence

On April 20, 2005, over 80 Arthur Hill High School students went unheard... Classrooms at the Saginaw High School were quieter and the hallways echoed the silence. These strong students came together and protested the silence faced daily by the GLBT community. They proved that together we could make a difference.

This silent protest was part of the Day of Silence, a nationwide student lead day of action. It focused on the prejudice and harassment that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and/or transgender students face each and every day. It brings to light issues of discrimination that these teenagers face on a day-to-day basis.



These strong students came together and protested the silence faced daily by the GLBT community.



This day was organized by a select group of Leadership students. Those students were Marissa, Adam, Jessica, and Anjelica. We spent approximately 2 ½ weeks on this project. We managed everything from copying and cutting paper, to organizing an invitation only Diversity Assembly with guest speaker James McDaniel, a training manager for EnviCare Consulting. We worked day in and day out to make sure everything was just right. We also organized a Night of Noise, which was a type of Breaking The Silence event where we fed pizza, soda, and chips to the participants of the day.

This year, we had over 80 students participate.

While this number seems small, the impact that these 80 plus students had was huge. It made people realize that a small number of people can make a big difference. I was informed that in the past we only had a little over 60 people involved. Gaining an extra 20 plus people is a big step by a small group of people.

While this task may seem easy, the hardest part is getting staff and student appreciation. Some students look at it as stupid and not worth their time, while a few staff members look at it as something against their beliefs. The hardest part about it all is getting the word out there. We tried hard to let more people know that this day is more important than they may think. We hope to have an even better turn out next year.

Marissa Wahl, sophomore,
ArthurHill Leadership
Guest Columnist

Editor's Comment: Eighty student participants is a *huge* number. As a member of the GLBT community, I feel honored by your collective demonstration of courage and leadership.

A Refreshing April

A special thanks to **Debra Zibble** and company from **Advanced Therapeutics Massage and Bodywork** for providing refreshments and wonderful massages during the meet and greet portion of the April membership meeting. You can contact ATMB using the following:

ATMB Center
3055 Enterprise Dr. #2
Saginaw 48603
989 249 7606
www.atmbcenter.com
e-mail atmbcenter@sbcglobal.net
9 am - 9 pm 7 days /week by appointment

Yard Sale FUNdraiser

Alan Shinaver

Perceptions' first charity yard sale was held on April 30 and May 1 and was considered a complete success. Thanks to everyone who donated items for the sale and all of the volunteer workers, we raised over \$470. This money has been designated to be used towards our sponsorship of the Bay City/Saginaw/Midland AIDS Walk that will be held on October 1st.

The sale was held just south of Freeland on M-47 and coincided with the Freeland Walleye Festival and Community Yard Sale. Bargain shoppers were out in force that weekend and the weather cooperated for the most part; there was about 5 minutes of rain on Sunday.

Volunteers managed to have a little fun too, talking with each other and the customers, cooking lunch on the grill, and we even had a bonfire to warm ourselves between waves of shoppers.



EDITOR'S CORNER

Newsletter: Many Hands Make Light Work

Paul Hayes

::wiping brow:: Whew! This newsletter can be a big task at times. As the editor, it is my job to crack whips over the heads of the writers and stretch people on the rack for ideas. I know it sounds glamorous, and at times I have this giddy sense of power, but sometimes I feel the newsletter process would benefit from...assistance.

There are over 70 people who receive the newsletter in print. This means 70 copies must be printed, folded, inserted into envelopes, stamped, addressed, and mailed. And that's after the newsletter receives the seal of approval.

There's still a lot to do before, including writing, editing, resource checking, information gathering, formatting—well, you get the idea.

As the Communication Coordinator for Perceptions, I'd like to create a Newsletter Committee. A committee of one, however, is lonely. I need volunteers! If you have *any* of the following skills and can donate an hour or two of your time each month, I'd love to hear from you:

- Word processing using Microsoft Word
- Internet experience
- Windows skills, mostly cut and paste
- Keyboarding
- Folding, stuffing, stamping
- Writing, editing
- Ability to network with potential Advertisers
- Reporting on Perceptions events after attending
- Ability to learn these skills

That's it! It's that simple! To volunteer and begin your road to participation in a worthwhile Perceptions feature, contact me at Paul@PerceptionsSV.org or at the mailing address located on page 6 of this newsletter.

Perceptions "Design That Float" Contest



Perceptions is entering a float for the 2005 Michigan Pride March in Lansing, and we need your help to make this happen! Our entry will have a **LGBT CIVIL RIGHTS** theme with a large centerpiece to attract Pride spectators and the news media. What would make a good focal point on this float? Give us your biggest and brightest ideas—we welcome ALL suggestions! The Pride Committee will select the winning design. **Please drop off entries at any Perceptions-sponsored event. Deadline is Friday, June 3.**

Please describe or sketch your *dream float* below. Remember, the design should be "buzzworthy," powerful, and TASTEFUL:

Contact Information (please print):

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING?! No problem—we could still use your help at Motor City and Michigan Pride this June! If you're interested, please e-mail us at Volunteer@PerceptionsSV.org or check all that apply:

Tasks:

Float Construction Carpool Donor/Amount _____

MC Pride Booth Attendant (June 5; one-hour minimum)

MI Pride Booth Attendant (June 25; one-hour minimum)

Float Rider/Marcher (MI Pride only) Other _____

Preferred Availability:

Weekdays: _____

Weekends: _____

Mornings (before 12:00 pm)

Afternoons (12:00 pm-4:00 pm)

Evenings (4:00 pm-8:00 pm)

Nights (after 8:00 pm)

www.PerceptionsSV.org

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, May 11th - 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, May 13th – Perceptions Outdoor Co-Ed Volleyball 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Playing at courts in [Auburn Community Park](#), at Nine Mile Rd. and US-10. Contact volleyball@perceptionsSV.org for additional information. For last minute announcements visit the [Perceptions Volleyball Forum](#).

Friday, May 13th - "Friday Night Dinner" 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends 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. Read about previous dinners in the [Online Forum](#). Sign up for our email list on [Yahoo Groups](#), email info@PerceptionsSV.org or call 989-891-1GAY.

Saturday, May 14th - Annual Women's Golf Outing Sponsored by the [Triangle Foundation](#) and the [Human Rights Campaign](#). Starting at 8:30 am at St. John's Golf & Conference Center in Plymouth. For more information, go to www.tri.org/events/golf.html. Register by April 29 for discount.

Tuesday, May 17th – Womyn's Circle 7:30 - 9:00 pm. This program provides support to Tri-County lesbian women and facilitates community awareness projects in partnership with Perceptions and PFLAG. It has provided safety and help to many women and their families experiencing hostility, abuse and isolation. The free, confidential support group sessions are facilitated by Mary Jo Hall, MSW, CSW, ACSW. Meets at the YWCA located at 3405 Midland Rd. in Bay City.

Tuesday, May 17th – Perceptions Outdoor Co-Ed Volleyball 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Playing at courts in [Auburn Community Park](#), at Nine Mile Rd. and US-10. Contact volleyball@perceptionsSV.org for additional information. For last minute announcements visit the [Perceptions Volleyball Forum](#).

Wednesday, May 18th - 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, May 20th - "Friday Night Dinner" 7:00 pm. Join Perceptions members and friends 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. Read about previous dinners in the [Online Forum](#). Sign up for our email list on [Yahoo Groups](#), email info@PerceptionsSV.org or call 989-891-1GAY.

Friday, May 20th – Perceptions Outdoor Co-Ed Volleyball 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Playing at courts in [Auburn Community Park](#), at Nine Mile Rd. and US-10. Contact volleyball@perceptionsSV.org for additional information. For last minute announcements visit the [Perceptions Volleyball Forum](#).

Sunday, May 22nd - TransGender Michigan's Benefit Concert 4 to 7:00 pm. Magdalena's Tea House, 2006 E Michigan Ave, Lansing. Featuring the musical talents of Kate Peterson, Sarah Cleaver, Lazy Sunday. Tickets are \$5 to \$200 (sliding scale) and can be purchased at the door. For more information, contact Rachel Crandall at rachelcrandallmsw@yahoo.com or visit www.transgendermichigan.org

Sunday, May 22nd - PFLAG Meeting 2:00 - 4:30 pm. Located at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 6220 Jefferson, Midland.

Tuesday, May 24th – Perceptions Outdoor Co-Ed Volleyball 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Playing at courts in [Auburn Community Park](#), at Nine Mile Rd. and US-10. Contact volleyball@perceptionsSV.org for additional information. For last minute announcements visit the [Perceptions Volleyball Forum](#).

Thursday, May 26th - Perceptions Monthly Membership Meeting 7:00 pm. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Midland, 6220 Jefferson Ave. For more information, contact [Perceptions](#).

Wednesday, June 1st - Saginaw Meet & Greet 7-9 pm. An informal gathering for the Tri-Cities' GLBT community. All are welcome. Meet your old friends and make some new ones while eating fantastic baked goods. Enjoys hot and cold drinks in a non-smoking environment! Crumbs Gourmet Cookie Cafe is located at 4882 Gratiot just east of Center Road and behind Edward's Men's Shop. tel: 989-498-4010

Friday, June 3rd - Triangle Foundation Night Out with the Detroit Shock 7:30 pm at the Palace of Auburn Hills. Enjoy the best women athletes in the world while supporting [Triangle Foundation](#). WNBA's Detroit Shock vs. New York Liberty. Tickets only \$16 and a portion of the proceeds benefit the Triangle Foundation. Ticket purchase includes a chance to win special Shock items! To purchase tickets, call Latrice Jackson at 248-544-6411 or e-mail blkmagicwomyn@yahoo.com. Tickets also available at A Woman's Perspective Bookstore, 175 W. Nine Mile Rd, Ferndale. 248-545-5703.

Sunday, June 5th - Motor City Pride Noon til 7:00 pm in downtown Ferndale. For more information, go to [MotorCityPride.com](#). See the Perceptions [Pride Page](#) for a complete list of regional GLBT Pride events.

Tuesday, June 7th – Womyn's Circle 7:30 - 9:00 pm. This program provides support to Tri-County lesbian women and facilitates community awareness projects in partnership with Perceptions and PFLAG. It has provided safety and help to many women and their families experiencing hostility, abuse and isolation. The free, confidential support group sessions are facilitated by Mary Jo Hall, MSW, CSW, ACSW. Meets at the YWCA located at 3405 Midland Rd. in Bay City.

Tuesday, June 14th – People of Faith Lobby Day Monthly lobby day for people of faith sponsored by [AFSC](#) and the [Triangle Foundation](#). All are welcome. Please come to the Capitol and speak out as progressive people of faith in support of GLBT rights. Lansing, Capitol Bldg, Room 424, from 9:30-11:00 a.m. (Repeats on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.)

Friday to Sunday, June 17 to 19th - Northern Michigan Pride 2005 Events happening all weekend long in Traverse City. Visit www.NorthernMichiganPride.org for more information. See the Perceptions [Pride Page](#) for a complete list of regional GLBT Pride events.

Friday & Saturday, June 24 & 25th - Michigan GLBT Pride March, Rally & Festival The 18th annual events at the Capitol are the last weekend in June (Stonewall weekend). The March, Rally & Festival will still take place in downtown Lansing and at the Capitol building. The March begins at 1:00 pm on Saturday. For more information, go to www.MichiganPride.org. See the Perceptions [Pride Page](#) for a complete list of regional GLBT Pride events.

Friday to Sunday, July 22 to 24th - Friends North Bike Tour A weekend of camping, biking, kayaking and fun in Benzie County for GLBT individuals, their friends and families. This 14th annual event will attract participants from all over Michigan and beyond and is a fundraiser for [Friends North](#) and other Northern Michigan GLBT organizations. Moving to a new location this year, the Friends North group will have exclusive use of a 58-acre private campground. Click here for [more information](#). Early bird discount is in effect until **June 1st**. Download the [Registration Form](#).



Contact us!

Perceptions
PO Box 1525
Midland, MI 48641
989-891-1GAY

info@PerceptionsSV.org
Paul@PerceptionsSV.org
www.PerceptionsSV.org