

TRANSGENDER PANEL

Frances M. Fischer

Born in a small town in Iowa. Very polarized; you were either a macho "John Wayne" male or a "Marilyn Monroe" female. Anything else was publicly or religiously unacceptable. (sound familiar?)

Diagnosed at age three as not relating to being physically male. This propelled a chaotic lifetime of struggle attempting to meet society's expectations:

- first, toward the priesthood, then marriage (with a submissive role to a dominate male identifying wife),
- to several careers in management, accounting, business consulting, computer manufacturing, software testing & development,
- and specialty services in the transportation industry.

Postponing transition until the kids were older, Frances waited until her early fifties to complete her journey. It has been an ongoing struggle. Having to sue New York State to change her name, being fired for transitioning, and finding gainful employment in Syracuse.

GENDA is needed to protect us from the "Good Ol' Boys" attitude.