

The countdown to 2016 actually begins in September of 2015.

I had been thinking for a long time that it would be best if my name and my legal name were one and the same. There were several issues that prevented it up to this point. A major limit was money, specifically the lack of it. Then I heard of a program that could help me in that area and in July I started the process in motion. Unfortunately the lawyer who was assigned to the case had my cell phone number and my cell phone, unlike so many today, is only on WHEN I am going to be out and/or using it. As a result, the process was stalled until late August. I met with the lawyer on Sept 1st and filled out the necessary papers to start the ball rolling.

On Sept 8th, the petition for name change was filed and the motion for summary judgement was filed on the 9th. Now it was hurry up and wait as the normal legal processes went forward.

On the personal front, on Sep 28th I received an email from my gf. Nothing new about that. What was new was that she signed it 'love,' the first time she had done that.

There was a slight hiccup in the process but the order for my change of name was signed on Nov 4th. The lawyer's office notified me on the 10th and then I started the next step along the way.

By Dec 29th I finally had the letter I needed for Social Security and on the 30th, with my certified court order in hand, I went to the Social Security office to update my records.

Dec 30 and it was off to the DMV to update that record but I could only get half way. The Real ID process required me to have the actual new Social Security card to hand and so I could only get the standard ID for now. The new card should be here by January 13th and the new medicare card by the end of the month.

After the DMV, I went to my bank where I updated my records, ordered new checks, deposit slips and a new ATM card, all in my new name. I was also able to get the necessary information out to update a few of my creditors (gas, cell phone, etc)

Dec 31 found sis and I at home watching the new year celebration on television. We tried to watch the Times Square celebration but the channel that was on decided to go on the fritz, probably due to weather issues, and so we could not watch the ball drop in Times Square. Still, we rang in the New Year and after 0 dark 30 (12:30 am) we went off to bed.

As I wrap up this chapter, it is 7:17 pm here in Las Vegas on January the third and I am almost ready for my first date of the new year. My gf is going to pick me up after work and take me to her place where we will have each other to ourselves until Wed morning. Among other things we will go to the movies to see The Danish Girl. I bought the book but haven't read it yet.

Well, it is time to close this chapter and go get ready for my date. I am sure you will pardon me if I leave out some details.