



TransCentralPA Newsletter

Serving the Transgender Community of Central Pennsylvania since 1989

August 2008

www.TransCentralPA.org

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Announcements

GROUP

Hungry? Join us for dinner and drinks at The Zephyr Express on Saturday, August 2nd at 6:00 pm prior to our meeting (www.thezephyrexpress.com). The Zephyr Express is located in Downtown Harrisburg on North Street. Please RSVP to Kristy Snow at info@transcentralpa.org if you plan to attend.

EVENTS

Gay Day @ Knoebel's Amusement Park, Aug 9 in Elysburg, PA. which includes free parking, no admission fee and a picnic for the LGBT community. Contact Ellen D. for details.

Take Me Out to the Ballpark, The sixth Annual Gay Community Night at the Phillies is being held on August 19th at 7:05 pm at the Citizen Bank Park against the Washington Nationals. Tickets are only \$24 and can be ordered by visiting the www.phillygaydays.com website. And you might be excited about this depending upon your orientation... (Vegan or Carnivore), this game features Hatfield Phillies Frank Dollar Dog Night, too! Hot Dog!

Southern Comfort Conference, Sep 30-Oct 5 in Atlanta, GA. SCC is the largest transgender conference in the country. Visit www.sccatl.org for more information and to register. The hotel is always sold out so make your reservations early.

TG/CD Weekend @ Rainbow Mountain, Oct 24-26 in Stroudsburg, PA. This is weekend let your hair down and party. There will be a talent show so come out and show your talent! There were over 100 ladies out for the last TG/CD weekend. Visit www.rainbowmountain.com for details.

Beauty at the Beach, Oct 29-Nov 7 in Rehoboth Beach, DE. For more details, visit www.cdspub.com/batb.html.

2008 Fall Harvest, November 4-9 in Kansas City, MO. Fall Harvest began several years ago and was originally part of a group called the Mid America



Fourteen members and guests marched behind TransCentralPA's banner in Harrisburg's 2008 CentralPA PrideFest Unity Parade. This photo caught (L-to-R) Janine, Pam, Natasha, Felicia, Sara, Finnie, Ellen, Bobbi, Jenn and Jeanine. Several other members volunteered to set up and attend the booth throughout the long and festive day, which was blessed with lovely weather. We thank all who participated and sincerely appreciate your help.

Gender Group Information Exchange (MAGGIE). MAGGIE was an alliance of gender support groups in the Midwest United States. Visit www.fallharvest.org.

2008 Lake Erie Gala, November 17-22 in Erie, PA. This is a 10th anniversary event complete with sightseeing trips, wine tasting, fashion shows, evening entertainment, casino night, etc. in Erie, PA. Visit www.eriesisters.org for details.

Mark your Calendars!

- Aug 2** T CPA Group Meeting
- Aug 9 GIG Meeting, Baltimore
- Aug 9 Gay Day @ Knoebel's Amusement Park, PA
- Aug 19 Gay Community Night with the Philadelphia Phillies
- Aug 30 Gender Spectrum Family Conference, Seattle, WA

Visit our website for more event info!

NEWS

- On June 29, Thomas Beatie, who was born a woman but after surgery and hormone treatment lives as a man, gave birth to a girl at an Oregon hospital.

- The World Professional Association for Transgender Health has issued a statement which lays a strong foundation for the removal of exclusions for medically necessary health care treatment and insurance coverage for transgender children and adults. As with the AMA resolution recommending insurance companies pay for gender related surgeries, this is another document that can be used to fight for insurance coverage should your carrier refuse to pay for your transgender related medical care. The statement, dated June 17, 2008 can be downloaded from the WPATH website.

- The nonprofit organization Equality Ad-

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From the Managing Director



Jeanine Ruhsam
Managing Director

What a great turnout of members we had for Harrisburg/Central Pennsylvania's Pride Parade & Festival! I want to personally thank each and every one of you who lent your time and made the effort to participate. We doubled our number over the past two years, with fourteen members marching behind our banner. We were noticed, and we sent a great message to the public: transgender people are here in quantity and quality, and here to stay... and to participate in the fabric of the everyday life of Central Pennsylvania.

Our very purpose as a group depends on visibility- so that those who need support in their quest to cope with gender identity find us and the caring hands and hearts they seek, and so that the general public becomes increasingly aware of our very real presence, and learns to accept and embrace us. We are succeeding, good people- through our cumulative effort, which in turn is because of your individual effort.

Regretfully, I won't be able to attend our meeting this coming Saturday night; I'll be with my spouse Julia visiting my aging mother in Arkansas, whose days gracing our lives are growing fewer. Kristy will take my place organizing and conducting the TNO dinner, and the monthly meeting.

Again- thank you all so much for helping make our participation in Pride such a success, and I look forward to seeing you all at the September meeting and dinner.

Warmly,

Jeanine Ruhsam



Spotlight on Local Transgender Resources



(215) 693-1199
72 N. Main Street Suite 2A
Doylestown, PA 18901

The Papillon Gender Wellness Center in Doylestown, PA focuses on the complete person by offering gender confirmation surgery, elective surgeries, counseling, hormone therapy, electrolysis as well as a myriad of other services related to the overall wellness care for the transgendered community. Founded in the fall of 200 by Dr. Christine McGinn, herself a transwoman.

www.drchristinemcginn.com

Announcements (continued)

vocates Pennsylvania, has started a statewide initiative called The TRANSLation Project to further collaborate with transgender organizations and activists as well as other LGBT organizations and activists that focus on communities of color. Approximately 17% of our legal hot-line callers self-identify as transgender. Approximately 40% of callers self-identify as people of color. Equality Advocates has been at the forefront of advocating for HB 1400 and SB 761, both of which would provide protections from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or presentation in employment, housing, and public accommodations. For more information visit their website at www.equalitypa.org.

- With a record number of co-sponsors in both the House and Senate, HB 1400 and SB 761 LGBT Non-Discrimination Bills were recently introduced in the Pennsylvania legislature. Senate Bill 761 was introduced in the Pennsylvania Senate on April 10, 2007. Sen. Pat Browne (R-Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton) and Sen. Vince Hughes (D-Montgomery, Philadelphia) are the prime sponsors of the legislation with a total of 22 of the Senate's 50 members signing on as co-sponsors. On June 13, 2007, similar legislation was introduced in the Pennsylvania House by Rep. Dan Frankel (D-Allegheny) and Rep. Chris Ross (R-Chester), along with 70 additional co-sponsors. Thirteen Pennsylvania municipalities have already enacted civil rights laws including protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. These municipalities are Allentown, Easton, Erie County, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Lansdowne, New Hope, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Scranton,

Swarthmore, West Chester and York. State College also has an ordinance that only covers sexual orientation discrimination in housing. While some of our state's residents and visitors are covered by these ordinances, LGBT people can be discriminated against without any recourse by simply crossing the city, county or borough line. The lack of uniform policy across the state also leads to confusion for LGBT people and employers, landlords and businesses. Current Pennsylvania law provides basic legal protection against discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, age, national origin, handicap or disability, education and the use of a guide dog.

- On July 23, The Pennsylvania Supreme Court upheld a Commonwealth Court decision striking down the amendments to the state's hate crimes law that added sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry, gender, and mental and physical disability in 2002. The law was overturned based on the procedural way the legislation was passed by the legislature, not the content of the law. The law, known as the Ethnic Intimidation and Institutional Vandalism Act, was amended to include protections for these groups of people by a two-thirds majority of the state House of Representatives and Senate. The legislation was signed into law by then Republican Governor Mark Schweiker.

TransCentral PA

c/o MCC of the Spirit
2973 Jefferson Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 236-7387

Website: www.TransCentralPA.org
Email: info@transcentralpa.org