



# TransCentralPA Newsletter

Serving the Transgender Community of Central Pennsylvania since 1989

December 2008

WWW.TRASCENTRALPA.ORG

Volume 19, Issue 11

## Announcements

### HOT

**Gay Ole Holiday Party** is Nov 30, 4:30 pm at Liquid891. This is a gathering of all 12 local, non-profit GLBTQ organizations including TransCentralPA. Proceeds from the party will be split amongst the participating groups. The primary objective is a meet & greet between the groups as well as a chance to socialize. Entertainment for the event includes a quartet from the Womyn's Chorus, Biscuit's Christmas for Kid's Drag Show, as well as a number of other performers. Please show your support and join us!

**End-of-Year Dinner.** Join us for our Holiday Dinner at Scott's Grille ( [www.scottsgrille.com](http://www.scottsgrille.com) ) on Friday, December 5th at 7:00 pm. We will sit down promptly at 8:00 pm. Please RSVP if you plan to attend the dinner at [info@transcentralpa.org](mailto:info@transcentralpa.org). If you can't make it, join us at Liquid891 afterwards.

**No December Meeting!** Our next meeting will be Saturday, Jan 3, 2009 at 8:30 pm. Have a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year!

**NCTEquality Fundraiser** (see description in EVENTS below). If you are interested in attending this event, please let Jeanine Ru. Know ASAP!

### LOCAL

**TGEA Holiday Party.** TGEA, a sister group in Washington DC is hosting their annual party on Dec 6 in Arlington, VA. Several of us are going and if you would like to join us, please visit their website at [www.tgea.net](http://www.tgea.net) to register.

**GIG Holiday Party.** The Gender Identity Group in Baltimore, MD is hosting their 2008 Holiday Party at the GLCCB on Saturday, Dec 20 at 8:00 pm. If you are interested in attending, email Kristy for details.

**Transgender Survey.** Penn State is conducting a 10 minute survey on Transgender discrimination at [www.online.survey.psu.edu/endltransdiscrim/](http://www.online.survey.psu.edu/endltransdiscrim/).

### GROUP

**November Meeting** We had 11 people join us for dinner and 21 people attend the meeting. Congratulations to Wendy Sw. for winning the 2008 TransCentralPA Best Halloween Costume Contest!

**Amended Bylaws.** Members voted at the November meeting to adopt the recommended changes to our Bylaws. These Bylaws align the positions of our Board of Directors with a standard, non-profit organization. The revised Bylaws have been posted to the website.

**New 2009 Officers.** Congratulations (and thanks) to our newest officers: Jeanine, Kristy, Gretchen and Randi. If you are interested in helping out, please let one of them know. Thanks to Sara Pe. and Pamela Hi for their service this past year.

**2008 End-of-Year Report.** We had 40 full members (up from 22 in 2007) by the end of 2008 and \$2001.76 (up from \$1160.29 in 2007) in our account.

**Updated Website** with pictures from our November meeting, the 2009 Member Application, revised Bylaws, new Board of Directors and have started compiling a new calendar for 2009. Please send Kristy any dates of events and their website to [info@transcentralpa.org](mailto:info@transcentralpa.org)

**Now Accepting Applications.** The 2009 Membership Application is available on our website. Current members only may renew their membership by filing out the form and mailing it to our address (below) along with a check or money order for \$30. Starting January 1st, membership dues go to \$35.

TransCentralPA  
c/o MCC of the Spirit  
2973 Jefferson Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

*See 'Announcements' on page 2...*



*Several of us out at Liquid891 for the costume party, drinks and dancing. Wendy Sw. (pictured with the exquisite hat) won TransCentralPA's Best Costume Contest. Congratulations Wendy!*

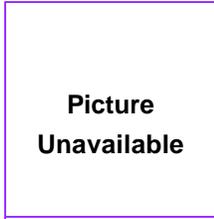
## 2009 Board of Directors



**President**  
Jeanine



**Vice-President**  
Kristy Snow



**Secretary**  
Gretchen Lyons



**Treasurer**  
Randi Wallace

### Announcements (continued)

#### EVENTS

**NCTEquality Fund Raiser** on Dec 2. NCTE is celebrating their 5 year anniversary with a benefit hosted by long-term advocate Kate Bornstein. Please join them at the Woolly Mammoth Theater in Washington DC. For more information, please visit the website at [www.nctequality.org/anniversary.html](http://www.nctequality.org/anniversary.html).

**IFGE Conference** from Feb 2-8 will be held in Alexandria, VA. The discounted hotel room for the event is \$132, half the standard rate. The block of rooms available actually starts on Feb 2 and will go quickly, so make your reservations early at [www.ifge.org/conference](http://www.ifge.org/conference)

**Liberty 2009 Conference** from Apr 30—May 2. Volunteers will receive reduced or free registration to the event. If you are interested in volunteering or need more information about the conference, visit their website at [www.transeventsusa.com](http://www.transeventsusa.com)

### From the President



Jeanine Ruhsam

As this is my final post for 2008, it came to mind to take a look back at our activity for the year soon to be over. Wow! What a year we've had, if we measure it by how many we are and what we've done. We've nearly doubled our paid membership (and I hear that we may gain two more at this last dinner of the year), and we've certainly been well represented at our many events, meetings and activities. My primary vision and goal as your leader has been to increase our visibility to the local and general public, and thus to foster their greater understanding and acceptance of transgender people. We've made great strides in doing so this year, and with the momentum of what we've accomplished, we are well on our way to great results in 2009.

This year we have:

- Presented a panel discussion to a Gender Studies class at York College (Jeanine R., Pam H., Finnie W. and Ellen D.)
- Presented the "Trans 101" panel at the GSA Summit at HACC (Jeanine R. Kristen R. & Pam H.)
- Hosted a presentation at a regular meeting by Amy Keisling, MS, LSW, and Lorraine Bock, CRN on "Health Issues for Trans People"
- Hosted a presentation at a regular meeting by Jake Kaskey and Alex Reber of PA Equality Advocates
- Worked out a deal with Liquid891 for free admission to members on meeting nights
- Presented a successful "Spring Fling" party featuring local artist Darcie Miner

- As part of our *Speaker's Series* Dr. Cerise Richards presented her seminar on "Brain Gender Identity: Why We Are, Who We Are"
- Marched (twelve members) behind our banner in the Central PA Pride Parade
- Purchased and staffed an information booth at the Central PA Pride Festival
- Hosted a presentation at a regular meeting by Center for Cosmetic Dermatology
- Been invited to & attended a performance by the *Kinsey Sicks* at Dickinson College, following a group dinner in Carlisle
- Presented a talk and a Q&A (Jeanine R.) to a psychology seminar class at Dickinson College
- As part of our *Speaker's Series* Mara Keisling, founder and director of NCTE ([www.nctequality.org](http://www.nctequality.org)) presented "Transgender Victory and Challenges"
- Presented a donation check from TCPA to NCTE at the Southern Comfort Conference in Atlanta, GA (Sara P. & Jeanine R)
- Joined the CPGLCC (*CentralPA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce*) & Jeanine R. attended their greet & meet mixers as your representative
- Attended a reception for the *Harrisburg LGBT Community Center* (Jeanine R. as TransCentralPA's representative & spokesperson)
- Organized and attended dinners at local mainstream restaurants every month prior to our meetings
- Held a Halloween Costume Contest at our November meeting & participated in another at Liquid 891
- Had an invited presence and explained our group's mission at "The Gay Ole Holiday Party" at Liquid 891

Thanks, Members and supporters, for a great year!

Warmly,  
Jeanine Ruhsam

### Mark your Calendars!

Nov 30	Gay Ole Holiday Party @ Liquid891 at 4:30 pm
Dec 2	NCTE's 5-year Anniversary Benefit in Washington DC
Dec 5	TCPA Holiday Dinner @ Scott's Grille at 8:00 pm
Dec 6	TGEA Holiday Party, Arlington
Dec 20	GIG Holiday Party, Baltimore
Jan 3	TCPA Group Meeting
Jan 14	First Event, Peabody, MA
Feb 2	IFGE Conference, Alexandria

Visit our website for more event info!

### TransCentral PA

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

Website: [www.TransCentralPA.org](http://www.TransCentralPA.org)  
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