



TransCentralPA Newsletter

Serving the Transgender Community of Central Pennsylvania since 1989

June 2011

WWW.TRANSCENTRALPA.ORG

Volume 22, Issue 6

Announcements

June's Dinner will be at Stock's on Second on Saturday, June 11th at 5:30p (www.stocksonsecond.com). We'll sit down promptly at 6:00 pm. Please RSVP if you plan to attend at info@transcentralpa.org.



June's Meeting is Saturday, June 11th at 8:30 pm. Doors will open at approximately 8:00 pm for those needing to change.

After Hours is at Stock's on 2nd Stock's (www.stocksonsecond.com). Stock's offers the opportunity to mingle and socialize in a friendly atmosphere as well as an opportunity to dance to some great music. So for great conversation, friendship and more, please join us at Stock's on 2nd. There is no cover charge!

Pride Parade Cancelled. We just received word from the organizers that the parade portion has been cancelled, but the Pride Festival is still on for July 30th. Unfortunately, it has become cost prohibitive to hold the parade. We'll have more information on TransCentralPA's participation at the June meeting.

June Birthdays! Please say Happy Birthday to Gina Ja., Suzane Ol., Ashley Mc., Elsa La., Leah Ba., Brooke Gr., and Monique St.

2011 Membership We have reduced the annual fee to \$25 thanks in part

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Transvestic Disorder

the Overlooked Anti-Trans Diagnosis in the DSM-5

Reprinted from [GID Reform Weblog](#) by Kelley Winters

On May 5th, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) released a second round of proposed diagnostic criteria for the 5th Edition of The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5). These include two diagnostic categories that impact the trans communities, Gender Dysphoria (formerly Gender Identity Disorder, or GID) and Transvestic Disorder (Formerly Transvestic Fetishism). While GID has received a great deal of attention in the press and from GLBTQ advocates, the second Transvestic category is too often overlooked. This is unfortunate, because the Transvestic Disorder diagnosis is designed to punish social and sexual gender nonconformity and enforce binary stereotypes of assigned birth sex. It plays no role in enabling access to medical transition care, for those who need it, and is frequently cited when care is denied (Winters 2010). I urge all trans community members, friends, care providers and allies to call for the removal of this punitive and scientifically unfounded diagnosis from the DSM-5. The current period for public comment to the APA ends June 15.

Like its predecessor, Transvestic Fetishism, in the current DSM, Transvestic Disorder is authored by Dr. Ray Blanchard, of the Toronto Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH, formerly known as the Clarke Institute). Blanchard has drawn outrage from the transcommunity for his defamatory theory of autogynephilia, asserting that all transsexual women who are not exclusively attracted to males are motivated to transition by self-obsessed sexual fetishism (Winters 2008A). He is canonizing this harmful stereotype of transsexual women in the DSM-5 by adding an autogynephilia specifier to the Transvestic Fetishism diagnosis (APA 2011). Worse yet, Blanchard has broadly expanded the diagnosis to implicate gender nonconforming people of all sexes and all sexual orientations, even inventing an autoandrophilia specifier to smear transsexual men. Most recently, he has added an "In Remission" specifier to preclude the possibility of exit from diagnosis. Like a roach motel, there may be no way out of the Transvestic Disorder diagnosis, once ensnared.

What You Can Do Now

1. Go to the [APA DSM-5 web site \(APA 2011\)](#), click on "register now," create a user account and enter your statement in the box. The deadline for this second period of public comment is June 15.
2. Sign the [Petition to Remove Transvestic Disorder from the DSM-5 \(IFGE 2010\)](#), sponsored by the International Foundation for Gender Education.
3. Demand that your local, national and international GLBTQ nonprofit organizations issue public statements calling for the removal of this defamatory Transvestic Disorder category from the DSM-5. Very few have so far.
4. Spread the word to your network, friends and allies.

For more information, see [GID Reform Advocates \(Winters, 2010\)](#)

Of late I've been happy that I live in Pennsylvania...instead of Maryland. Oh, the taxes are about the same, and we are much bigger and thus more scrambled...even Central PA is bigger and more disparate than all of Maryland. But, I am speaking in terms of the LGBT community and the trans community in particular.

From the President



Jeanine Ruhsam

Most of you readers, members and supporters of the central PA trans community are very aware of our achievement last year in the revision to the gender marker policy on PA photo identification and ID cards. That was brought about by our close work and tight relationship with Equality Pennsylvania, EQPA (and further supported by the National Center for Transgender Equality and the Gay & Lesbian Task Force). Since then EQPA has been working quietly to reform the gender marker status of PA birth certificates, and more recently on a new program to help PA people & legislators better understand and therefore accept transgender men and women in their community by setting up opportunities for one-on-one interaction and dialogue with trans representatives (I'll be calling on you for that, my friends). It is suffice for me to say that we are close partners with EQPA and the LGBT Center of Central PA, both groups being strong advocates for and with our transgender community.

Not so with our Maryland neighbors. As the New Year began it seemed that Maryland was about to not only slam-dunk a gay & lesbian marriage bill but also pass a trans equality/non-discrimination bill. Unfortunately the successes of both efforts were soon compromised; the trans bill due to bitter, acrimonious squabbles and protests against Equality Maryland from the many splintered transgender advocacy groups in the state involving their assessment of a "public accommodations" clause in the bill. Ultimately both bills failed, and blame was cast into all four corners of the compass. It now seems that EQMD is about to collapse and disappear due to its loss of capitalization, due largely to its failure to deliver on what seemed to be two expected victories for the LGBT community of the state. It was also assisted in its crash by many of the afore-said transgender groups and blogging voices. In recent news we have heard that that from the ashes of EQMD we now find Gender Rights Maryland taking up the political advocacy of transgender Marylanders. We wish them all the best, and hope they can take the lead. It is all too well known in the trans community that we transgender people tend to eat our own, and we hope that GRM can stop that feast.

To the recent scenario described above, I'll simply say, not on my watch...and not with your involvement and support. We have a strong ally in EQPA, and we will do all we can to keep our partnership, cooperation and positive efforts with them alive and healthy, for the benefit all transgender Pennsylvanians...not just those of us in the capitol city area.

Summer is upon us, and with it comes July's Central PA LGBT Pride Festival. We are saddened to hear that this year's parade is now cancelled. We've proudly increased our number of marchers and thus our public visibility behind the TransCentralPA banner each year of the parade, last year winning second place prize for a marching group. The festival at Riverfront Park will be held on Saturday, July 30, and as we have done for many years we will have our booth set up with volunteers staffing it during the daylong celebration. Please plan to participate and we look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

Jeanine Ruhsam



Calendar of Events

Bold text are TransCentralPA sponsored

May 31	Be-All Chicago, IL
Jun 2	TransHealth Conference Philadelphia, PA
Jun 2	The Curve —LGBTQA Youth York, PA
Jun 3	Common Roads —LGBTQA Youth Harrisburg, PA
Jun 4	TGEA Meeting Arlington, VA
Jun 4	Laptop Lounge King of Prussia, PA
Jun 10	Common Roads —LGBTQA Youth Harrisburg, PA
Jun 11	TCPA Dinner @ Stock's TCPA Meeting After Hours @ Stock's
Jun 12	Capitol Pride Washington DC
Jun 16	The Curve —LGBTQA Youth York, PA
Jun 17	Common Roads —LGBTQA Youth Harrisburg, PA
Jun 18	Laptop Lounge King of Prussia, PA
Jun 18	Lancaster Pride Lancaster, PA
Jun 20	Just You Week Las Vegas, NV
Jun 24	Common Roads —LGBTQA Youth Harrisburg, PA
Jun 25	Tranquility Support Group Mtg; Baltimore
Jun 30	The Curve —LGBTQA Youth York, PA
Jul 9	TCPA Dinner @ Bricco TCPA Meeting After Hours @ Stock's
Jul 29	Gender Spectrum Family Berkley, CA
Jul 30	Central PA Pride Harrisburg, PA

Visit www.TransCentralPA.org for details & more event info!



Free Screening

Walk-in STD Screening, Treatment and HIV Testing is available every Wednesday from 6PM to 9PM at Alder Health's Harrisburg Health Center (100 N. Cameron St., Ste. 301-East, Harrisburg). No appointment necessary. For more information visit www.AlderHealth.org/std or call 800-867-1550.

Activity Day a Success

Despite the rain on Sunday, May 15, Alder Health's first annual Our Health, Our Community Activity Day was a huge success. Together we raised over \$10,000 to support HIV/AIDS services and health programming offered by Alder Health throughout South Central Pennsylvania.

The rains broke just long enough for over 25 participants to compete in Alder Health's first 5K for Health. Megan Howe was the top finisher completing the course in a time of 23:19.

Our luck ran out just as AIDS Walk was about to kick off at 2PM. While walkers prepared to head out on the course, the sky opened and the rains came down in buckets. Despite the rain, many walkers braved the ele-

ments to an effort to be active and raise awareness.

The first annual Drag Race was run indoors under the cover of the Carousel Pavilion instead of the planned route. Eva O'Diam was crowned the Fastest Queen of Central PA for 2011, completing the shortened course in record time.

Primary Care On Track

for July 5 Launch

The Primary Care Services of Alder Health are quickly taking shape. Equipment and supplies arrive every day, and a strong medical team is being assembled to provide quality health services to the South Central Pennsylvania community. All the Health Center's staff have a strong commitment to meeting the unique health needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community and individuals who are struggling with addiction.

While we are happy to welcome you as a new patient at any time, the first medical appointments will be available on July 5th. The Agency is working quickly to secure relationships with many health insurance providers serving the South Central Pennsylvania region. Currently Alder Health has established relationships with both Highmark and Aetna. Please visit our website (www.AlderHealth.org) for updates to the list of insurance plans accepted for primary care services at Alder Health.

For individuals who may be uninsured

or do not have a plan currently accepted by Alder Health Services, you may qualify for participation in the Agency's sliding fee scale program, which provides discounts based upon your household income.

2011 Wine Tour

Saturday, September 17

Alder Health Services hosted its first Wine Tour in the fall of 2006. Since that date, the event has cultivated a loyal following with participants traveling from throughout PA, NJ and MD to join us for the tour.

The 2011 Wine Tour features:

- Franklin Hill Vineyards
- Manatawny Creek Winery
- Black Walnut Winery

Tickets: \$85 (General Ticket), \$100 (Vintner Ticket - includes a listing in the event program). Your ticket to the 2011 Wine Tour includes: Luxury Bus Transportation, Tastings At Each Winery, Additional Wine Tastings on the Bus, a Boxed Lunch from Fork 'n Spoon, and Snacks throughout the day. The Tour is limited to 50 participants. The Tour leaves from the Alder Health Services (100 N. Cameron St., Hbg.). For more information and to purchase tickets please visit www.AlderHealth.com/winetour or call 800-867-1550.



CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA
GAY AND LESBIAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Networking Mixer

Thursday, June 16, 2011
from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

at the Best Western Premier
The Central Hotel & Conference Ctr.
800 East Park Drive
Harrisburg, Pa 17111

Business dress is requested. Free for members. \$5 for non-members. Register by sending an email to info@cpglcc.org.

Bring your business cards and a 30 second elevator speech to share.



Trans-Headliners

Below are several news stories, blogs, opinions and resources for your reading pleasure. Opinions & views in these links cannot be assumed to be of TransCentralPA, nor the Officers or Members of TransCentralPA. Our goal is to simply provide you with information & thought-provoking viewpoints. If you would like to submit a story, please email us at info@TransCentral.org

[\[News\] \[Florida\] Transgender Senior Crowned Prom Queen](#)

[\[News\] \[US\] Therapy to change 'feminine' boy created a troubled man, family says](#)

[\[Commentary\] \[USA\] 9 of 10 Voters Think Feds Already Ban Workplace Discrimination](#)

[\[News\] \[MA, USA\] Massachusetts Lawmaker Asks If Transgender People Change Gender on a Day-to-Day Basis](#)

[\[News\] \[OK, USA\] Police: Man Sought Fake Death, Sex Change To Avoid Warrants](#)

[\[News\] \[VA, USA\] Va. groups condemn anti-trans attack in Fredericksburg](#)

[\[Advice\] \[USA\] Trans. Man](#)



Festival & Celebration! June 18th!

Lancaster's Pride Festival & Celebration

[Buchanan Park](#) 901 Buchanan Ave.

Saturday June 18th 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM \$5 admission, kids under 12 free

SAVE THE DATE--Lancaster's Pride Festival & Celebration is almost upon us! We are so excited for Lancaster's 4th Pride! Let's join together to make this Pride bigger and better than ever before!

On **June 18th from 12 PM to 6 PM**, **Buchanan Park** will be transformed into a **CARNIVAL** like you've never seen before! Jugglers, mimes, street performers, face painting, and a dunk tank where you even get to test your skill at soaking a drag queen! Three stages will entertain you throughout the day with dancing, live music, and, of course, the ever popular drag queens and kings. Vendors will sell everything from art and jewelry to Pride wares to food of all sorts. And don't forget the kids--this is a family-friendly day featuring a Kid's Corner just for the young and young-at-heart. **Admission is just \$5, kids under 12 get in free!**

Do you want to get more involved with Pride? It takes lots of **VOLUNTEERS** to put this together, and if you want to become part of the team, please visit our website at www.lancasterpride.org

Are you excited to find out who will be **PERFORMING** at Pride this year? We have two stages with entertainment all day long! The first stage is chock-full of [live music](#), the second features the [drag queens & kings](#), and there is a third stage for dancing!

· **WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!**

REMEMBER--PRIDE--SATURDAY JUNE 18TH!

www.LancasterPride.org



Dear Friends,

I am extremely proud to announce the establishment of the Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition (PSEC).

As a social justice organization of Pennsylvania LGBTQ youth, we represent student organizations and young leaders across our state. After six months of working towards starting PSEC, we are now an incorporated organization in Pennsylvania. Our organized statewide network of LGBTQ youth have made history in becoming the first statewide LGBTQ youth-led coalition in the nation.

I am looking forward to continuing to build the collective power of LGBTQ youth across our Commonwealth for meaningful changes on college and university campuses and in our local communities. Over the past year we have organized with thousands of students as a network connected to over 70 LGBTQ youth organizations.

I am also proud to report to you that on Friday, May 5th, we are opening our offices in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, and Philadelphia. We are the first Pennsylvania statewide LGBTQ organization to open an office in Pittsburgh and our headquarters will be opening in Montgomery County at the end of the month.

Please visit our website: <http://www.pennsec.org> for more information on PSEC. It houses a great deal of information about LGBTQ youth in Pennsylvania. We are proud to post online for the first time several comprehensive resources including documentation of local non-discrimination ordinances and statewide community guides.

All my best,

Jason Landau Goodman

Executive Director

The Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition





On May 31st, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) issued three official statements on the appropriate treatment of trans employees in the federal workplace. The Administration is continuing to strengthen its commitment to ensuring that the federal government will hire the best people regardless of their gender identity.

First, OPM issued overall guidance as a follow-up to President Obama's June 2009 memorandum, which clarified that the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 protects transgender employees and jobseekers. This new guidance shows managers across the government how to appropriately respond to trans issues in the workplace. The guidance can be seen [here](#).

In addition to this guidance, OPM's announcements today included a clarification to their policy on Reconstruction of Official Personnel Files, which now will permit federal employees to change their personnel files to indicate a corrected name or gender, while prohibiting intrusive inquiry into the employees medical history. Under this policy, an employee's gender history will remain confidential.

Finally, OPM's Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) Program issued a letter to all federal insurance carriers clarifying that the carriers must classify trans employees' gender according to their gender identity and cover medically necessary sex-specific care. Some transgender employees may have health issues that necessitate appropriate sex specific screenings and/or treatments. For example, a MTF transsexual patient over the age of 50 may require breast cancer and prostate cancer screening. A FTM transsexual patient may require screening for breast and cervical cancer. Insurers covering federal employees are required to pay for this medically necessary care. Unfortunately, the existing exclusion of sex reassignment surgical benefits in federal employee benefit plans remains for now. The carrier letter can be seen [here](#).

According to NCTE Executive Director Mara Keisling, "these newly released policies really show that the

Administration and OPM are serious about eliminating the barriers to federal services by transgender people. Though there are still some discriminatory policies to root out, these are very positive steps forward."

Other steps that have already been taken by the Administration to ensure equal federal employment opportunity for trans people include the following:

- (2009) President Obama signs memorandum clarifying Civil Service Reform of 1978 to protect people based on gender identity.
- President Obama names first ever transgender political appointees Dylan Orr and Amanda Simpson.
- (2010) The federal government job listing website Jobs.Gov begins listing gender identity as a protected characteristic for federal employment in the federal government's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) statement.
- (2011) OPM's Office of Diversity and Inclusion creates a position whose duties include troubleshooting employment issues for LGBT federal employees.
- Federal agencies begin clarifying agency-specific EEO policies to reflect their understanding that federal law against sex discrimination (Title VII) prohibits anti-trans workplace discrimination. See for instance Department of Labor's new EEO policy [here](#).
- (May 31, 2011) OPM guidance clarifies that trans people are protected in federal employment.
- (May 31, 2011) OPM issues a revised policy for Reconstruction of Official Personnel Files.
- (May 31, 2011) OPM issues a Carrier Letter to insurance companies that manage Federal Employee Health Benefit (FEHB) plans requiring respect for a trans employee's gender identity and coverage of medically necessary sex-specific care.



Announcements (continued)

to the Keystone Conference and everyone's part in making it such a success. Dues are used to pay for meeting space, program literature, our website and our affiliation with and support of community groups and activities such as Common Roads, the Community Center, Central Pennsylvania Pride, etc. Please continue to support our organization and efforts by joining or renewing your membership—we are making a difference!

Online Membership Application now available! You can either download the form and mail it in or you can fill it out online and pay via PayPal with a credit card. Visit our site and click on the Quick Link "[Membership Information](#)". Help us support the Transgender community.

Website Updates! We've added more businesses, services and information to our [Resources](#) pages. If you know of an excellent resource in the local area, please let us know about it so we can list it as well.

New SO Group Several of our GG spouses are forming a TransCentralPA online group for spouses and significant others to discuss issues and offer support for each other. Please email us at info@transcentralpa.org if you would like more information.



Jamie Ann Meyers elected to Lutherans Concerned/North America



The Board of Directors of Lutherans Concerned/North America (LC/NA) is pleased to announce the election of Jamie Ann Meyers as the Transgender Representative on the Board for the remainder of the 2010-2012 biennium.

Jamie Ann is a transexual woman, currently active as a lead trainer for the Minnesota GLBTA Campus Alliance. She also serves on the board of the Minnesota Transgender Health Coalition, and is involved with GenderFold in the Coalition of ONA churches of the United Church of Christ.

Retired in 2010 as Professor Emerita of Geoscience, Winona State University, Winona, Minnesota, she takes her 39 years of teaching experience into training both secular and faith communities on concerns of the GLBTQIA community, focusing on Ally, Transgender and Bisexual issues.

Married 44 years to her wife, Peggy, they have two adult children and three grandchildren, and have lived in Winona, Minnesota for 31 years.



Youth Training Offered

The Center is pleased to announce that we will be growing our professional training program through a summer institute for K-12 professionals called *Understanding & Supporting LGBTQ Students*. The training will take place July 11-15 from 9am to 4pm.

This summer institute is a week long training program for K-12 professionals that will provide an opportunity to engage a wide range of topics regarding effectively supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning students, including gender and sexuality 101, advocacy and gay-straight alliances, curriculum development and classroom management, legal issues, LGBTQ youth in the child welfare system, and gender bullying as sexual violence.

Thanks to Temple University Harrisburg, who will be hosting the training, for offering Continuing Education Social Work and Act 48 Professional Development Credits. Up to 30 are available. Registration is \$250.

See more information and register today [online](#).



TransCentralPA

a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

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