



# TransCentralPA Newsletter

Serving the Transgender Community of Central Pennsylvania since 1989

January 2012

[WWW.TRANSCENTRALPA.ORG](http://WWW.TRANSCENTRALPA.ORG)

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## Announcements

**January's Dinner** will be at Bricco ([www.briccopa.com](http://www.briccopa.com)) on Saturday, Jan 14 at 5:30p. We'll sit down promptly at 6:00 pm. Please RSVP by Friday, Jan 13 if you plan to attend at [info@transcentralpa.org](mailto:info@transcentralpa.org). Seating is limited.

**January's Meeting** is Saturday, Jan 14 at 8:30 pm. Doors will open at approximately 8:00 pm for those needing to change. Special guest Polly Kahl, licensed therapist from West Lawn, PA and Casandra Weber from Alder's Health Services will be joining us.

**After Hours** is at Stock's on 2nd Stock's ([www.stocksonsecond.com](http://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!

**January Birthdays!** Please say Happy Birthday to Julia Ru., Alisha Ma., and Bill Wa. Happy Birthday!

**2012 Membership** dues are a one-time annual fee of \$25. 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!

**2012 Keystone Conference** website is now up at:

[www.Keystone-Conference.org](http://www.Keystone-Conference.org)

Registration is now open. Please help us spread the word. Register by January

15th and you'll have 10 chances at winning 4 rooms at the Harrisburg-Hershey Sheraton Hotel during the conference. The Harrisburg-Hershey Sheraton Hotel has extended us their low rate of \$99/night for the 4th year in a row (restrictions apply). As we finalize the details of the conference, we'll post additional information on the website. Please take a moment to visit the website and mark your calendars for March 28<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>, 2012!



A banner for The Keystone Conference. On the left, there is a silhouette of a man and a woman standing on either side of a large transgender symbol. The symbol is purple and white with a butterfly in the center. To the right of the symbol, the text "The KEYSTONE CONFERENCE" is written in a large, serif font, with "The" in a smaller font above "KEYSTONE CONFERENCE". Below this, it says "A Celebration of Gender Diversity". On the right side of the banner, there is a photograph of the Pennsylvania State Capitol building in Harrisburg, PA, with a river in the foreground. The background of the banner is a gradient of purple and blue.

March 28th –31st, 2012 in Harrisburg, PA

[www.Keystone-Conference.org](http://www.Keystone-Conference.org)

Happy New Year!

I am again honored to have been reelected as the 2012 President of TransCentralPA by you, and I will do my best to serve you with dedication and pride. Thank you for your faith and trust.

The majority of our time and effort is now channeled into co-chairing and preparing for the fourth annual *Keystone Conference 2012*. *Keystone* was the second best attended gender conference in the United States this past year, and every indication is that this year's event will be even more successful. Its popularity is entirely due to the caring, involved effort of all of you members and volunteers, which is all to the greater good of transgender people and their supporters, families and allies here in Pennsylvania, the Mid-Atlantic and throughout an ever expanding region. Please spread the word about *Keystone 2012* [www.keystone-conference.org](http://www.keystone-conference.org) and help it continue to be one of America's and the world's best gender conferences.

Warm wishes for a peaceful, healthy and fulfilling year in 2012!

*Jeanine Ruhsam*

## From the President



*Jeanine Ruhsam*

## Calendar of Events

*Bold text are TransCentralPA sponsored*

Jan 12	<a href="#">The Curve</a> —LGBTQA Youth York, PA
Jan 13	<a href="#">Common Roads</a> —LGBTQA Youth Harrisburg, PA
<b>Jan 14</b>	<b><a href="#">TransCentralPA Dinner @ Bricco</a> <a href="#">TransCentralPA Meeting</a> <a href="#">After Hours @ Stock's</a></b>
Jan 18	<a href="#">First Event</a> Peabody, MA
Jan 20	<a href="#">Common Roads</a> —LGBTQA Youth Harrisburg, PA
Jan 21	<a href="#">Central PA Gay &amp; Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting</a> Harrisburg, PA
Jan 21	<a href="#">Laptop Lounge</a> King of Prussia, PA
Jan 21	ROSE Meeting York, PA
Jan 25	<a href="#">Nat'l Conference on LGBT Equality</a> Baltimore, MD
Jan 26	<a href="#">The Curve</a> —LGBTQA Youth York, PA
Jan 27	<a href="#">Common Roads</a> —LGBTQA Youth Harrisburg, PA
Jan 28	<a href="#">Tranquility Support Group</a> Baltimore, MD
Feb 2	<a href="#">Transgender Education Group</a> Harrisburg, PA
Feb 3	<a href="#">Common Roads</a> —LGBTQA Youth Harrisburg, PA
Feb 4	<a href="#">Laptop Lounge</a> King of Prussia, PA
Feb 4	<a href="#">TGEA Meeting</a> Arlington, VA
<b>Feb 11</b>	<b><a href="#">TransCentralPA Dinner @ El Sol</a> <a href="#">TransCentralPA Meeting</a> <a href="#">After Hours @ Stock's</a></b>
Feb 24	<b>GSA Leadership Summit</b> Dickinson College, PA
Mar 28	<b><a href="#">4th Annual Keystone Conference</a></b> Harrisburg, PA

Visit [www.TransCentralPA.org](http://www.TransCentralPA.org) for details & more event info!

## 2012 TransCentralPA Officers



**Jeanine Ruhsam**  
*President*



**Kristy Snow**  
*Vice President*



**Suzane Oliva**  
*Secretary*



**Wendy Swinehart**  
*Treasurer*



Ted Martin and Adrian Shanker, the duo at the helm of Equality Pennsylvania, were at the forefront of the movement to bring LGBT nondiscrimination to Pennsylvania cities and towns in 2011.

This year, eight municipalities approved LGBT nondiscrimination ordinances, and Martin, executive director, and Shanker, board president, were heavily involved in advancing each measure.

Equality PA leadership was present at nearly all council hearings and meetings on the proposals and, in many instances, worked closely with local lawmakers to craft the language for the ordinances, as well as raise awareness about the importance of such measures.

"They are certainly two of the most critical players statewide that have worked on these ordinances," said Brian Sims, former Equality PA board president. "If they weren't leading the effort in one municipality, they were second-behind the local leaders providing support. Their imprint is on every one of the municipal nondiscrimination ordinances that were passed this year."

Following this year's victories, Pennsylvania is now home to 26 municipalities that ban LGBT discrimination.

Equality PA has remained dedicated to heightening that number, offering vocal leadership to areas considering adopting their own measures, such as Cheltenham, and continuing to work with municipalities like Abington that have stalled proposals.

Andy Hoover, legislative director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, said the agency's plan to advance LGBT equality at the local level, given the long-stalled statewide LGBT nondiscrimination bill, has been a purposeful and effective one.

"Ted and Adrian and all of the folks

at Equality PA have been very strategic and very smart about where they're putting their efforts," Hoover said. "They're finding the places that they know they can win and have been able to take it outside of Southeastern Pennsylvania to places like Susquehanna and Bethlehem. These ordinances are going to be really important to the future of LGBT equality in Pennsylvania."

Prior to taking over as board president in September, Shanker served as vice president of the Pennsylvania Diversity Network and this year helped lead the effort to pass Bethlehem's nondiscrimination ordinance, as well as domestic-partner measures in Allentown and Easton.

Martin came on as executive director in mid-2010 after a period of instability that included the resignation of two directors and a number of board members, and later a name change and other programmatic updates.

Sims said Martin successfully brought the agency through those transitions.

"The state needed a statewide gay-rights organization and over months and months of bringing in donors, volunteers and thought leaders, we were able to build what I thought of as the frame of a really solid ship, and a ship is only as good as its captain," Sims said. "Ted ended up being a spectacular captain of the ship. He came in and on day one began making structural and organizational changes and really moved the organization forward. He had a unique skill set, knew all of Pennsylvania, knew gay rights and advocacy, knew how to raise money and this was the place where he could bring all of that together. I don't think there is anyone in the state, or even the country, who would have been able to have done a better job than him."

Hoover also said the agency is in a much different place today than it was in 2010.

"It's been astounding the way Ted has taken every effort to make Equality Pennsylvania a very effective organization," he said. "Ted, Adrian and everyone at Equality Pennsylvania have essentially rebooted the organization and they've been able to do some incredible work."



## 5th Annual GSA Leadership Summit

February 24-25, 2012  
Dickinson College, PA

This event is an opportunity for students, teachers, counselors, social workers, administrators and community members to meet, network, and participate in workshops designed to help everyone better understand and advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) students in central Pennsylvania and beyond.

Contact Louie Marven for more information on the GSA Leadership Summit: [lmарven@centralpalgbtcenter.org](mailto:lmарven@centralpalgbtcenter.org)



## 5th Anniversary Annual Meeting & Dinner

In 2012, the Chamber will be celebrating its fifth year of supporting the LGBT and Allied business community. Their Annual Meeting & Dinner will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at the newly renovated Best Western Premier.

The celebration will begin with a reception followed by dinner and the Annual Meeting, with keynote speaker John J. "SKI" Sygielski, President of the Harrisburg Area Community College. Wrapping up will be the After Party, with comedian Suzanne Westenhofer.

You and your business can be a part of this celebration by sponsoring this event and helping to advance the mission of the Chamber. To see what sponsorship opportunities are available, contact [Seth Hamill](#).





## New Leadership

[LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central PA](#) is proud to announce new leadership for 2012. The Board of Directors has named Louie Marven as Executive Director, effective January 2012. Marven has worked with The Center since May 2008, most recently serving as Director of Education & Youth Services.

Marven's work has included seeing through the 2009 merger between The Center and its current youth program arm [Common Roads](#). Since the merger, Common Roads programs have been sustained and grown through the addition of Common Roads Carlisle (in addition to Harrisburg and Lancaster chapters), the continued development of the annual Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) Leadership Summit, and increased outreach to professional staff working with youth.

The Board of Directors also sees new leadership in 2012, with the elections of Stuart Landon as President and Patricia Van Horn as Vice-President. Elizabeth Mullaugh continues to serve as an officer, and this year takes the role of Treasurer. Patricia Bucek will stay on as Secretary, and Dorothy Fulton and Benjamin C. Dunlap, Jr. will serve as ad hoc members of the Executive Committee.

Officers of this diverse group come from healthcare, entertainment, non-profit, legal, government and marketing backgrounds. They will help oversee the organization's growth and strategy as part of The Center's effort to create common ground for the LGBT community and allies in central Pennsylvania by providing services through spiritual, educational, and cultural activities that foster wholeness.

"We are honored to welcome this new team of officers," said Marven. "They bring a range of experience and perspective that will enhance our Board's ability to provide stewardship for The

Center's continued growth. I look forward to working with them as we strive to connect the central PA LGBT community. This is a great next step for us."

The Center's 2012 Board of Directors also includes Joshua Appleman, Marilyn Kanenson, Marlene Kanuck, Alexis Lake, Jeanine Ruhsam, and Stinson Stroup.

"This is going to be a fantastic year," Landon said. "I am very proud to be on this team and we are seeking energetic volunteers of the community to join the many committees at our Center." Individuals interested in becoming a committee member can contact The Center at 717-920-9534 or [info@centralpalgbtcenter.org](mailto:info@centralpalgbtcenter.org).

## CPLAN: Loan Closet Donation Date

The Center is pleased to announce a partnership between its CPLAN (Central PA LGBT Aging Network) program and MCC of the Spirit to develop a durable medical equipment closet. This equipment closet will loan items to LGBT individuals ages 50 and up who have no insurance or who are under-insured.

The loan closet will be operated out of MCC of the Spirit, 2973 Jefferson Street, Harrisburg, during the church's office hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 3 pm or by appointment (call the church office at 236-7387). Loaning will begin on February 1.

The loan closet will accept the following items (please clean first!): Canes, walkers, crutches, wheelchairs, shower chairs, and cash donations for cleaning supplies and to maintain the closet.

We will not accept the following items: Urinals, bedside commodes, bedpans, hospital beds, and braces.

To volunteer to help with the loan closet, contact the Center by email ([info@centralpalgbtcenter.org](mailto:info@centralpalgbtcenter.org)) or by calling the office at 920-9534.

Our second donation date is Saturday, January 14 from 9 am to noon at the MCC of the Spirit, 2973 Jefferson Street, Harrisburg 17110.

## Oldies TV Dinner & Dance

Saturday, February 25, 2012 will be an Oldies TV Dinner and Dance event sponsored by the LGBT Community Center Coalition's CPLAN program and held at Liquid 891, on Eisenhower Boulevard in Harrisburg from 6 to 9:30 pm. The cost of the event is \$10 per person and will include a light dinner buffet featuring fruit salad, stuffed celery, stuffed bologna rolls, tuna Casserole, meatloaf, mac & cheese, green bean casserole, and Chex Party Mix. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time from the LGBT Community Center Coalition or Liquid 891. Tickets will also be available the night of the event.

The first part of the evening (6pm to 7:30 pm) will feature sitcoms from the 50s, 60s, and 70s such as *I Love Lucy*, *Happy Days*, and *Lavern and Shirley* in a drive in type of decor. Dancing will begin at 7:30 pm with the DJ spinning tunes from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. The evening will conclude at 9:30 pm when Liquid will return to its usual Saturday evening programming.



Transsexual Education Group provides education, information and understanding for the MTF, FTM, pre and post-op transsexual. In addition, the group will provide an educational forum for the HR and professional working with transsexuals. This is an informal, round table type meeting where people can ask questions and share with others going through the same experiences. The meeting is hosted by Alder Health, 100 North Cameron St, Suite 301 East Harrisburg PA 17101 The entrance to 100 N. Cameron is on Walnut. We will open at 6:30pm and the meeting will start at 7pm and last till 8pm. For more information, please contact Pam H at [tegharrisburg@yahoo.com](mailto:tegharrisburg@yahoo.com).