



TransCentralPA Newsletter

Serving the Transgender Community of Central Pennsylvania since 1989

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Issue 1

www.TransCentralPA.org
info@TransCentralPA.org

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

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

Announcements

Prior to our January Meeting, we'll be hosting our annual potluck dinner and social on Saturday, January 11th at our normal meeting space, the MCC of the Spirit, 2973 Jefferson Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110. See the Potluck 2.0 article on page 5. A short meeting of the members will follow to conduct 2014 elections.

2014 Officer Nominations window is now open and will close at our Jan 11 meeting. If you are interested in volunteering or have a nomination, please contact Kristy Snow at info@transcentralpa.org.

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

Guy's Night 2014. Email us with your suggestions for venues (sports bars, pubs, restaurants, bowling alleys, etc.) and your general availability (weekdays, weekends, etc.) to Transmen@TransCentralPA.org as we lay out a plan for 2014.

Membership Dues are a one-time annual fee of \$20. Spouses or SOs are \$10 for the year. 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

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The goal of the Youth Action Conference is to create a positive, safe, and educational foundation for the development of LGBTQ youth community leaders within Pennsylvania. For the 2014 conference, there will be a specific emphasis on trans* youth in Pennsylvania's LGBTQ movement. The Youth Action Conference will provide the tools and community resources necessary for a generation of youth to create spaces in which trans* individuals feel safe and empowered. Additionally, the Youth Action Conference seeks to ignite a pursuit of justice for trans* individuals in the larger LGBTQ community. Please join us and raise your voice, so that those who may feel afraid to speak up can find agency in the LGBTQ movement.

See page 6 for details....



TransCentralPA Potluck Dinner 2.0 Saturday, January 11th at 5:30 pm

See page 5 for details and to sign up...



Our Time Has Come

Now that we are in the final weeks of launching the sixth annual Keystone Conference, some people are vocalizing that they have noticed there is a quietly understated theme that runs through each event, much like a riff does in a song they love.

“What’s the theme this year, Jeanine?” asked one of our attuned participants a several weeks ago. Pleased that the subtlety of our approach has been so effective, I answered “It is four simple words: ‘Our Time has Come’.” The inspiration for this came from Vice President Biden, who told a reporter in November 2012 that discrimination against transgender people “is the civil rights issue of our time”. As the tide in the LGBT struggle to legalize same sex marriage turns positive, legislation for transgender equality has ramped up and come into the public discourse. The many well-funded anti-LGBT political groups that once spent all their ammunition fighting DOMA have, now that battle appears lost, turned their guns on the smaller, seemingly more vulnerable transgender rights cause.

One of the principle battlefields in this fight is Pennsylvania. House and Senate Bills 300 are on the legislative agenda for the 2014 session, and they seek to end discrimination against people based on their sexual orientation and gender identity. Unlike all our adjacent neighbors and the entire Northeast (excepting West Virginia), Pennsylvania does not have a nondiscrimination law that includes gender non-conforming people. We all know too well that we can be fired from our jobs, denied housing, refused meals and hotel rooms and even access to health care simply because we might be deemed to not adequately fit the norms of the gender binary. This bill advances our situation into the focused spotlight of public action. Thus, Our Time has Come.

Along with our allies and cohorts Equality PA and the National Center for Transgender Equality, the Keystone Conference and TransCentralPA are committed to doing all they can to seize the moment and the opportunity to help push this once-in-a-lifetime effort through to success. We all have a part to play in this and it is now time to act.

Warmly,

Jeanine Ruhsam



Jeanine Ruhsam

Calendar of Events

Bold text are TransCentralPA sponsored

Jan 1	Happy New Year!
Jan 4	LapTop Lounge King Of Prussia, PA
Jan 4	TGEA Regular Meeting
Jan 8	Common Roads —Safe Space Harrisburg, PA
Jan 9	Common Roads —Safe Space Carlisle, PA
Jan 9	The Curve York, PA
Jan 10	Common Roads —Safe Space Lancaster, PA
Jan 10	NoVA MCC —Gender Support Fairfax, VA
Jan 11	TransCentralPA Potluck Dinner Meeting @ the MCC Of The Spirit After Hours @ Stocks
Jan 15	Common Roads —Safe Space Harrisburg, PA
Jan 16	Common Roads —Safe Space Carlisle, PA
Jan 17	Common Roads —Safe Space Lancaster, PA
Jan 18	LapTop Lounge King Of Prussia, PA
Jan 21	PFLAG York, PA
Jan 22-26	First Event Peabody, MA
Jan 22	Common Roads —Safe Space Harrisburg, PA
Jan 23	Common Roads —Safe Space Carlisle, PA
Jan 23	The Curve York, PA
Jan 24	Common Roads —Safe Space Lancaster, PA
Jan 25	ROSE York, PA
Mar 26-30	Keystone Conference Harrisburg, PA

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



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@TransCentralPA.org

[Year in Review: 10 Important Transgender Moments of 2013](#)

[New Jersey Moves on Transgender Birth Certificate Bill](#)

[PA Gov. Corbett Supports Banning Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation](#)

[Corbett backs HB 300](#)

[Psych exam ordered for alleged murderer of transwoman](#)

[Legal project helps transgender people get a name change](#)

[CeCe McDonald to Be Released From Prison](#)

[20 Years After Brandon Teena's Death, Trans Rights Still Have a Long Way to Go](#)

[Indiana Appeals Court: Gender Change Does Not Void Marriage](#)

[Connecticut Becomes Fifth State to Require Transgender Medical Coverage](#)

[Funeral for Murdered Trans Woman Held at 'Pope's Church'](#)

[Calif. schools prepare for transgender rights law](#)

[In Their Own Words: LGBT Advocates on the State of Transgender Issues](#)

[CDC Reverses Discriminatory Breast Cancer Screening Rule for Trans People](#)

[HHS to Reevaluate Ban on Gender-Confirming Surgeries](#)

[Buck Angel Shuts Down Transgender Surgery Fundraising Site](#)

[Third Cleveland-Area Trans Woman Murdered in Past Year, Prompting Concern](#)

[Calif. Athletic Commission Considers Licensing Trans Athletes](#)

[Preferred Pronouns Gain Traction at US Colleges](#)

[Trans Golfer Still Trying to Go Pro, Claims She Has Unfair Advantage](#)

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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!

2014 Keystone Conference—Last call for workshop proposals and ideas! Deadline is January 15th. Registration for vendors, advertisers and sponsors is now open! Mark the date now: March 26th-30th at the Sheraton Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel. To make your room reservations, please visit the [Keystone website](#) for more information.

Red Roof Inn Discount We have negotiated a rate of \$42.99/night for 2014 for both TransCentralPA members and guests. To take advantage of this special offer, call the hotel directly at (717) 939-1331 and use the rate code "TCPA". They are also offering a special price for their Business King suites, too. Ask for details.

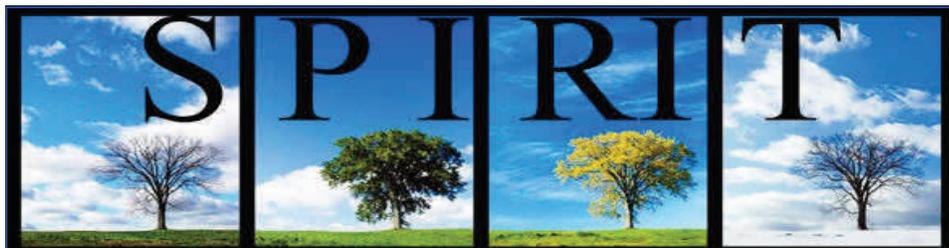
Have an announcement? Email us at info@TransCentralPA.org

LGBT
center

EQUALITY
PENNSYLVANIA

TLDEF
Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund

National Center for
TRANSGENDER
EQUALITY



Come join us for worship and friendship!

Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit
2973 Jefferson Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110

www.MCCoftheSpirit.org



Are you a parent or other family member of someone who is transitioning?

Would you like someone to talk to who has been there and came to terms with his own daughter's transition? David Garrett is available to chat with you about concerns and questions that you may have about transgender family members. Feel free to call and have a confidential conversation with him at 717-580-3405.

OUT2 ENROLL

Health reform through the Affordable Care Act has the potential to improve access to health insurance for millions of Americans, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people and their families. Yet, nearly 70 percent of the LGBT community is unaware of their new options under the ACA, such as federal premium subsidies for the purchase of coverage through the Marketplaces. Out2Enroll - a collaborative project of the Sellers Dorsey Foundation, Center for American Progress, and the Federal Agencies Project - was formed to educate the LGBT community about the ACA.

The event will educate the LGBT community about the ACA, provide valuable information about insurance, and answer LGBT-specific questions. The event will feature remarks and a brief presentation by Christopher Labonte of Out2Enroll and the Sellers Dorsey Foundation. Partnered by Equality PA and Alder Health Services.

Wednesday, January 15th
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**Harrisburg Regional
Chamber of Commerce**
3211 N. Front St,
Harrisburg, PA

Members - \$10
Non-Members - \$20



Central Pennsylvania
Gay and Lesbian
Chamber of Commerce

Business Networking Mixer

Thursday, January 16
6:00-8:00 pm



Lux Night Lounge

1327 N. Duke St.
York, PA 17403

Members: Free
Prospective Member: \$10

Bring your business cards
and 30 second elevator
speech.

Business dress requested.

The Tree House at Alder Health Named Innovation Award Finalist

As many as 40% of homeless youth and young adults in the United States are believed to identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Once homeless, over 70% of LGBT young adults report physical, emotional or sexual abuse when attempting to access services from mainstream assistance programs.

To address the long-term health of LGBT youth and young adults in South Central Pennsylvania, Alder Health Services began the development of The Tree House at Alder Health in July 2013. This exciting program works with LGBT youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk for homelessness to provide them the support and resources necessary for them to become successful, contributing members of the South Central Pennsylvania community.

In recognition of Alder Health's innovative approach to addressing a challenging issue in our community, The Tree House at Alder Health has been recognized as a finalist in the area of program development for the 2014 Nonprofit Innovation Awards. The winner will be announced at the awards breakfast Friday, February 28, 2014 at the Lancaster Marriott. For more information on the event please visit: <http://www.cpbj.com/section/Nonprofit-Innovation-Awards>.



Improved Access Coming in January 2014

At Alder Health Services our goal is to provide high-quality, accessible and affordable care to the South Central Pennsylvania community. Our practitioners strive to provide a welcoming environment for all of our patients providing special attention to each individual's unique needs and circumstances.

In order to improve our availability, the following changes will be made to our health center schedule starting in January 2014. The schedule changes include an expansion of Alder Health's STD Services which were previously only available for three hours each week in Lancaster and Harrisburg.

Family Medicine

- Lancaster hours extended until 6PM each Tuesday and added availability on Thursdays
- Harrisburg evening hours added to Wednesdays with appointments available until 8PM each week

Mental Health Services

- Lancaster Psychiatric Services now available each Tuesday from 10AM to 6PM
- Harrisburg Psychiatric Services adds additional availability on Mondays from 1PM to 5PM

STD Services and Treatment

- Lancaster - Walk-in Testing and Treatment available every Tuesday from 10AM to 6PM
- Harrisburg - Walk-in Testing available every Wednesday from 1PM to 8PM

Every individual accessing the family medicine and mental health services at Alder Health gains access to support services to link you to essential resources and services in the community and transportation assistance to and from your appointment, as needed and available.

To schedule an appointment, call Alder Health Services 1.800.867.1550.

Alder Health Services

Get Covered!

Alder Health Can Help.

On October 1, the Health Insurance Marketplaces established by the Affordable Care Act opened allowing many individuals and families who have been uninsured to secure health insurance for the first time.

While this is a wonderful opportunity, it can also be a challenging and confusing process. To assist members of the community in navigating the system and to understand the options available to them, Alder Health Services has been designated as

Certified Application Counselor Agency. Multiple staff members at Alder Health have been officially trained to assist individuals in the community as they assess their options and make decisions regarding their health insurance and their participation in the Health Insurance Marketplaces.

Counselors may assist individuals with:

- Understanding Health Insurance and the Health Insurance Marketplace
- Determining your individual eligibility for participation in the Health Insurance Marketplace or your potential eligibility for other government health insurance programs such as Medicaid and CHIP.

- Identifying your personal health insurance needs
- Completing your enrollment application and assisting in understanding requirements and expectations and benefits for which you may be eligible.
- Assessing the health insurance plans for which you may be eligible for.

For assistance please call 1.800.867.1550 to be connected to a Certified Application Counselor at Alder Health Services. Individuals may enroll between October 2013 and March 2014.



TransCentralPA Potluck Dinner 2.0

*Saturday, January 11th
at 5:30 pm*

Everyone is invited! In lieu of our normal dinner and meeting, TransCentralPA is hosting a potluck dinner at the MCC of the Spirit. Please plan to bring either a side-dish, desert or drinks. If you are unable to bring something, that's OK, just let us know that you plan to attend so we can include you in our headcount to ensure adequate seating.

TransCentralPA will be providing the plates, napkins, utensils, table cloths, cups and a main entrée (or two) which will include meat. Plan on a serving size for at least 6 people (12 if you sign up for rolls/bread). If needed, please bring a serving utensil for your dish as well. Finally if you have special dietary needs, please prepare a side-dish to your own standards.

Doors open at 5:30 pm and we plan to seat at 6:00 pm. We hope you can join us! Email us with questions at info@transcentralpa.org.

[Click Here to Sign-up!](#)

What Happened to the December Potluck Dinner Food?

We donated it to a local agency who dispersed to those in need over the holidays. Here is the thank you note they sent us:

I want to thank you guys kindly for your donation to Food Not Bombs this past week. At any given time in Harrisburg, there are about 300 individuals including women and children that do not have a roof over their heads' when they lay down to rest in the evenings. This number is rising every day, with some shelters seeing a staggering 50% increase over the years. Every Monday evening, we serve anywhere from 30-40 and upwards of 50-60 each week. Sometimes, this is the only meal our friends have all week. We have built relationships with these people, on a first name basis, and I'm sure that if they knew who to thank for this last week's contribution, they would. The gratitude over flows on Monday nights at Market Square, and this week there was nothing but satisfied tummies and smiles for miles! :)

Thank you again, as it is rare that we receive such a generous donation as a pre-made meal ready to go into the oven and get to the masses. What a treat! Wishing you all a happy holidays, and a prosperous new year, in mind and heart. Blessed be!

Cheers! :D



More than half-mil for new HB 300 campaign

by Angela Thomas (reprinted from the PGN)

The effort to pass an LGBT nondiscrimination law in Pennsylvania recently received new financial support.

The State Equality Fund, of which the Gill Foundation is a part, this fall handed down a \$500,000 grant — split among Equality Pennsylvania, National Center for Transgender Equality and Keystone Progress — for the launch of an education campaign the trio is spearheading to support the passage of House and Senate Bills 300. Local LGBT activist and philanthropist Mel Heifetz also issued his own challenge grant for the campaign, which Equality Pennsylvania executive director Ted Martin said is “significant” and will be used to encourage community members to step up and match his donation.

Pennsylvania is one of more than two-dozen states that lacks a nondiscrimination law inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity.

HB and SB 300 have more than 100 bipartisan cosponsors, and Republican Gov. Tom Corbett earlier this month came out in support of the bill.

The new campaign — in which community organizers will generate support across Pennsylvania for the effort — is expected to launch in January, but planning has been underway for some time.

Martin said the organization has worked closely with the Equality Federation and met with LGBT advocates throughout Pennsylvania — in Philadelphia, Allentown, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh — including NCTE and Keystone Progress to discuss efforts to pass HB 300.

Each of the three participating organizations will hire a community organizer — one of whom will focus on the transgender community and one on the rural community — and Equality Pennsylvania will also enlist its staff for assistance.

Heifetz said he has been a supporter of Equality Pennsylvania for years and was asked by the Gill Foundation to participate in the campaign.

“Equality Pennsylvania is the leader in what has been going on in the last two-three years in regards to recognition in Pennsylvania,” Heifetz said. “They have offices and contacts in every single county and have really become a statewide organization responsible for getting everyone and even the governor’s office to recognize LGBT issues. They are in the trenches making sure that the state goes from being bright red to a light blue for all LGBT citizens.”

Martin said the final planning meeting took place in October, where the grants were awarded.

Equality Pennsylvania is also a participant in Why Marriage Matters PA, a new campaign by the American Civil Liberties Union, which is leading a lawsuit looking to overturn the state’s ban on same-sex marriage.

Martin said nondiscrimination and marriage equality are issues that go hand in hand.

“I think both issues are complementary to each other. Nondiscrimination is the foundation to a lot,” he said. “If you can be married in your state but still be fired for putting a wedding photo on desks, it makes marriage a much less glorious win.”

Martin said Gov. Corbett’s recent backing for the nondiscrimination bill makes the launch of the campaign even more timely.

“The work we did to bring the governor and the legislature forward, that is all important,” he said. “We need a campaign now to bring a larger community together to bring pressure on the people in the legislature to keep them moving forward.”

What is the Pennsylvania Youth Action Conference?

The Pennsylvania Youth Action Conference, or Y-A-C, is an annual social justice conference run by and for Pennsylvania students. Convened by LGBTQ student organizations across the state, the YAC is held over three days to strengthen and grow a coordinated LGBTQ youth movement in Pennsylvania. Hosted by the the Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition (PSEC), the YAC is the first Pennsylvania LGBTQ conference for student youth — by student youth. PSEC formed in 2011 as Pennsylvania’s statewide LGBTQ youth advocacy organization and became the first youth-led statewide LGBTQ organization in the nation.

What will the sessions be like?

Sessions are selected by the Youth Action Conference Committee through established networks and proposals from student leaders. All sessions are led by youth or adult allies working with student leaders. Each session is meant to be engaging and be based in group discussion. While many session leaders will present information in the beginning of the workshop, each workshop is meant to encourage meaningful group dialogue to explore important issues facing LGBTQ youth and how we can strategically organize throughout the year toward advancing the equality of LGBTQ Pennsylvanians.

How is the Youth Action Conference funded?

The conference will be made possible directly by registration fees, sponsors we are able to recruit, and fundraising efforts by Youth Action Conference Committee. As full time students and youth leaders, we are committed to executing a high-quality and as low cost per-youth event as possible.

YouthActionConference.com

