



TransCentral PA Newsletter

Serving the Transgender Community of Central Pennsylvania since 1989

www.TranscentralPA.org

December 2007

Volume 18, Issue 12

New Year's Resolutions

- Bring a friend to a meeting
- Volunteer with our group
- Lose 10 pounds
- Send Kristy an idea for the newsletter and/or links for the website.

Bylaws, Rules of Conduct and a New Board for 2008

After much hard work, the Board of Directors presented our new Bylaws to the general membership for ratification at the November 3, 2007 group meeting. After some discussion, the Bylaws were unanimously accepted and have been posted to both our website and our Yahoo! group. Although these new Bylaws were drafted from our previous Bylaws, several additions and changes were made to preserve our ability to operate as a stand-alone entity.

Next on the agenda was then approval of our newly created Rules of Conduct. For this or-

ganization to serve its true function, and for all of us to feel safe and supported, all members need to subscribe to and follow certain rules of basic respect and courtesy, so that each of us can feel free to be our true selves, to share our innermost dreams, to seek solutions to problems, and to tell the truth, both to ourselves and to each other. We ALL heal and grow stronger in an atmosphere of trust, confidence and frank sharing and disclosure.

Accordingly, in light of the many different needs, desires, stages and circumstances of

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What goes in a Newsletter?

It soon became apparent as I sat down to edit this newsletter, that it is going to be really tough finding pertinent information to put in it, especially for a 'new' girl like me who just a year ago began to venture outside the 'proverbial closet'. I am just not as 'in the know' as many of our members so please bear with me as I get my feet wet. I'll then begin our first newsletter with a heart-felt plea for

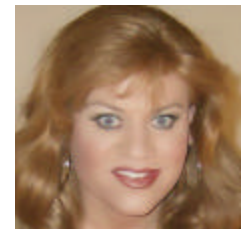
thoughts, ideas, and contributors.

We plan to publish the newsletter about mid-month. This will give us an opportunity to fill in the informational gap with our members and community due to our once a month meeting schedule. Therefore, if you have something you would like to contribute, please send it to me by the 15th. The newsletter

will be published to our Member's Only Yahoo! Group, our website, and will be sent via email to those individuals who have an interest in our group.

I'd like to keep our newsletter focused as much as possible on the local transgendered community. Of course we'll have general group announcements, meeting

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Kristy Snow
Communications
Director

Good Wishes....from the Managing Director

As most of you are aware, I'll not be at our Holiday Weekend at the Inn- so thank goodness Yvonne is stepping up with some seriously good food!- as I'll be attending the TGEA Holiday Gala in DC the same night.

It'll be exciting to wear a glam evening dress (*if I can fit in it post-Thanksgiving!*), and to follow up on what I discussed at Southern Comfort Conference two months ago with the president of TGEA: forming an affiliation of the independent & succesful TG support groups in the Eastern states, strting with ours.

It will also be good to meet with those that brought me out in my previous TG support group- old friends- and

to make new ones. We are all a rather close community, and open doors between us can only benefit us all, collectively & individually.

Kristy Snow (our Webmistress and soon-to-be Secretary)- who I do not believe will be able to attend the Holiday Weekend at the Inn- will gather what news & gossip she can from you regarding that event, and will begin her regular newsletter & posting of it on the website beginning in January, when her term begins.

Thank all of you who attended last months meeting for being involved in the ongoing duty of keeping this group alive through participating in the ratifying of our

Bylaws and Rules of Conduct, and in nominating and voting for the board of directors that will strive to serve you well for the coming year.

I am personally honored to have you choose me to remain at the helm of this organization. Thank you! I have a very optimistic outlook on the coming year, and years to come, for that matter: I sense growing energy, a growing membership, and an era when being Trans Gender is a *GOOD* thing, and *WE* are the messengers.

Warm Wishes for a loving and peaceful Yuletide -

—Jeanine



Jeanine Ruhsam
Managing Director



Annual Holiday Party at the Canna Country Inn

This past weekend, Saturday, December 1st, we had a great Holiday Party at the Canna Country Inn at Etters. I am including the website for you to check it out and see what you missed.

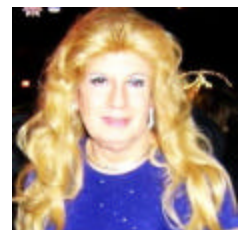
www.cannainnbandb.com

We were small in number only about 11 people actually attending others planned to be there and supposedly made commitments, but for one reason or another couldn't make it. What we lacked in numbers we made up for in enthusiasm. The food was great for potluck

and turned out to be a sumptuous feast thanks to Trina's coordination so we all didn't bring potato salad or jello molds. Kristen and Yvonne provided roast turkey, filling, mashed potatoes, I brought a green bean casserole. Trina's famous Swedish meatballs, and cocktail shrimp, wine, cheese, fruit, rolls, exotic breads, and desserts rounded out the meal. And of course we had numerous and varied libations. If you didn't get enough to eat it was your own fault.

The accommodations and amenities at the Inn are fabulous with private rooms each with a television, King Size beds, private bathrooms, game room with bar, two large lounges with TVs, several fireplaces, large kitchen and banquet facilities. Outside there is a luxurious lighted Hot Tub, that I visited after midnight in a lime green bikini (if you missed it, I am not going to do it again!). It was about 29 degrees outside and the water temp was about 101 degrees. I didn't want to get

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Ellen Davidson
2007 Program
Director

Bylaws, Rules of Conduct and a New Board (continued)

each of our members, including all our transgender members from closeted to fully out, and, including all our spouses, girlfriends, boyfriends, significant others and family members who are a part of or tangential to our group, the Rules of Conduct were created. Please review them at either our website or for our members, at our Yahoo! group.

The last order of business for our November Meeting was the completion of the nominations for and elections of the 2008 Board of Directors. 16 Members were in attendance to conduct the elections. With the adoption of our new Bylaws, the composition of our Directors has changed as well as some of the job responsibilities for them.

The Managing Director will be the chief administering officer of the Association, will serve as liaison with other organizations, and be the official spokesperson for the Association to outside groups and individuals. Jeanine Ruhsam has graciously accepted the opportunity to lead our group for another year.

The Secretary will be responsible for maintaining membership lists, preparing the minutes of each meeting, and will assist the Managing Director in administration of the affairs of the group. The Secretary will also coordinate with the Program and Meeting Director in activities and arrangement for meeting facilities. Kristina Snow eagerly volunteered to take on this responsibility.

The Treasurer will be responsible for collecting, maintaining, and

dispensing funds; preparing the budget for the Association as a whole; and presenting financial reports twice a year to the group. Our financial guru, Sara Perkins enthusiastically accepted another term of office.

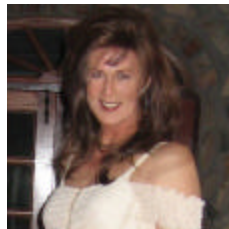
Pamela H will be in charge of public relations as our Outreach Director and she is excited! The Outreach Director will be responsible for the development of an outreach program to the media, professionals, and the general public.

The former position of Program Director is now called Program & Meeting Director. Trina Brady dutifully volunteered for this position. Her responsibilities now include planning and conducting our meetings as well as coordinating our speakers.

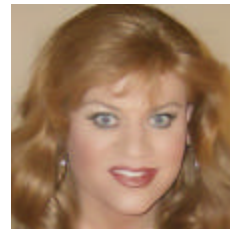
The position of Communications Director was added and Kristina Snow happily volunteered to assume these responsibilities. Previously, the position of Webmistress was appointed by the Managing Director. Now, in addition to operating our new website, the Communications Director will be responsible for producing our monthly newsletter.

Finally, the Board is sorry to see Kristen Richards and Ellen Davidson go. If you see either Kristen or Ellen, please tell them 'thank you' for all the energy and enthusiasm they put into our group over the past year.

The Board will announce and outline our goals for the New Year at our January Meeting so expect an exciting New Year!



Jeanine Ruhsam
Managing Director



Kristina Snow
Secretary



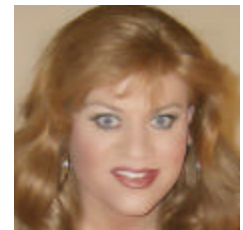
Sara Perkins
Treasurer



Pamela H
Outreach Director
(Picture Unavailable)



Trina Brady
Program & Meeting
Director



Kristina Snow
Communications
Director



Spotlight on Local Transgender Resources



www.commonroads.org

Common Roads is the only non-profit organization in Central PA dedicated to supporting and advocating for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth (ages 14-22).

In 1993, when Sharon Potter, deputy director of Pennsylvania Protection and Advocacy, provided testimony to Pennsylvania's Board of Education, she stayed to listen to other stories. One youth told his story of harassment by other students because of his sexual orientation.

With the assistance and support of the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard and many LGBT community leaders, Sharon started a LGBTQ youth support group. Seven people attended the first night, including one young man who had recently been dis-

charged from a psychiatric clinic after his second suicide attempt. The support group grew into BIGLYA, the Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Youth Association, and met at multiple locations throughout the Harrisburg Area.

In 2002, BIGLYA became Common Roads and obtained 501(c)(3) status as a tax-exempt non-profit organization. Shortly thereafter, they hired the first Executive Director, Carol Reisinger, and settled into a permanent space.

They are now approaching their 15th anniversary. Through a safe space program for youth, community advocacy, social support network, and education and training for professionals, they have directly or indirectly helped thousands of young people over the years.

They are now a beacon for LGBTQ youth throughout the region, and continue to grow with new programs and services, partnering with like-minded organizations to better serve our community.



Holiday Party (continued)

out of the water – it felt great and I had to be almost dragged out of the hot tub.

Sunday morning we were treated to a breakfast consisting of eggs any way you wanted them, sausage, ham, bacon or other breakfast meats, toast, French toast, coffee, orange juice and etc. I understand somebody wanted a Mimosa.

I hope we go back to the same place

again next year and that more can participate in the fun. A great time was had by all.

By the way it has been brought to my attention that we are no longer considering the GLBT community but now we are going to place the emphasis where it belongs. For us it now is the TLBG community (Trans, Lesbian, Bi, Gay).

—Ellen



Newsletter

(Continued)

agendas and summaries, as well as a listing of upcoming T-events. Another idea I had was to spotlight local resources, businesses, services, groups, etc. that are Transgender Friendly and provide a little more in-depth information about them. This way we can begin to learn about our community together and share it with those who need it!

For this newsletter, I have spotlighted *Commonroads*, a support group for LGBTQ youth (ages 14-22) located in Lancaster and Harrisburg. We just received information about another youth program in York who has asked us to list them on our site.

Let me know who you'd like to spotlight next so we can learn, share and grow together!

Have a wonderful holiday season and I look forward to seeing everyone next year at our January meeting.

—Kristy



Upcoming Transgender Friendly Events

- Fri Dec 7 Biscuit's Christmas Benefit Show for the Kids at 10:30 PM @ Club Liquid 891, Harrisburg
- Mon Dec 10 Monday Night T-girls, Philadelphia
- Sat Dec 15 Laptop Lounge, Philadelphia
- Sat Dec 15 Drag Show @ CC's Bar, Sunbury
- Mon Dec 17 Monday Night T-girls, Philadelphia
- Sat Dec 22 Christmas Party and Drag Show @ Club Z, Williamsport
- Mon Dec 24 Christmas Eve Party @ Club XS, York
- Fri Dec 28 Drag Show @ Club XS, York
- Mon Dec 31 New Years' Eve Extravaganza Bal Masque @ Club XS, York
- Mon Dec 31 New Year's Eve Party @ Stallions, Harrisburg
- Mon Dec 31 New Year's Eve Party @ Liquid 891, Harrisburg
- Sat Jan 5 TransCentralPA monthly meeting at 8:00 pm**
- Mon Jan 7 Monday Night T-girls, Philadelphia
- Mon Jan 14 Monday Night T-girls, Philadelphia
- Wed Jan 16 First Event 2008 Conference, Peabody, MA
- Sat Jan 20 Laptop Lounge, Philadelphia
- Mon Jan 21 Monday Night T-girls, Philadelphia
- Mon Jan 28 Monday Night T-girls, Philadelphia

Visit
www.TransCentralPA.org for
more information about
upcoming events!