



# TransCentralPA Newsletter

Serving the Transgender Community of Central Pennsylvania since 1989

January 2009

WWW.TRASCENTRALPA.ORG

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## Announcements

### GROUP

**Happy 2009!** We hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday and wish all the best in 2009!

**January Dinner** Join us at Café Fresco ( [www.cafefresco.com](http://www.cafefresco.com) ) for our pre-meeting dinner on Saturday, January 3rd at 5:30 pm. We will sit down promptly at 6:00 pm. Please RSVP if you plan to attend the dinner at [info@transcentralpa.org](mailto:info@transcentralpa.org).

**CAFÉ FRESCO**

**January Meeting.** Our next meeting will be Saturday, Jan 3, 2009 at 8:30 pm. Doors will open at approximately 8:00 pm for those needing to change. After the general announcements, we're going to try something new by breaking up into several focused discussion groups.

**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 if postmarked by December 31st. Starting January 1st, membership dues go to \$35.

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

**Group Stats:** We had 7 people join us for our end-of-year dinner in December at Scotte's Grille and 6 attended TGEA's Holiday Party in Arlington, VA. Unfortunately, the weather prevented more from attending. We have 12 members who



*Several members attended Transgender activist Donna Rose's presentation at Towson University's Gender Awareness Week in late November. Pictured (L to R) Tasha, Bobbi, Jenn, [unknown], Donna Rose and Pamela pose with an autographed book.*

have renewed their membership for 2009 so far.

**Mark the Date!** We will be hosting a weekend event on March 14th as part of our annual Spring Fling party at the Sheraton-Harrisburg/Hershey hotel. More announcements will be made at our meeting in January.

### LOCAL

**2009 Gay Straight Alliance Leadership Summit.** Common Roads is planning their annual leadership summit which will be held at Dickinson College on February 26th. Adults \$30, Students \$10. Email [info@commonroads.org](mailto:info@commonroads.org) for more information.

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

**Winter Arts Festival 2009** promotes the arts in the LGBT Community in Central PA and is a collaborative event between Common Roads and the LGBT Center Coalition. Running from January 17th through February 14th, Winter Arts Festival includes events throughout the region benefiting and hosted by various LGBT and allied groups. Be sure to take a look around - There's sure to be something for everyone. [www.winterartsfestival.com](http://www.winterartsfestival.com)

### EVENTS

**First Event** Jan 14-18 in Peabody, MA First Event features over 65 workshops covering all aspects of being Transgender. Visit [www.tcne.org](http://www.tcne.org) for more info.

See 'Announcements' on page 2...



(L to R) [Unknown], Samantha, Kristy, Randi, Natasha and Gretchen braved the bad weather to attend our sister group TGEA's Holiday Gala in Arlington, VA in early December. TGEA is working with IFGE to host their conference in Alexandria in February '09.

## From the President



Jeanine Ruhsam

Happy New Year! I feel honored to return as your President, having served as your managing director these past two years. The new denomination is part of the process of getting TransCentralPA complete recognition as a non-profit group by both the state of Pennsylvania and the Federal Government, and I am working with our Secretary and Treasurer to complete this effort over the coming weeks. We've found a local attorney who is willing to do the necessary filing and associated legal work pro-bono, which is a great boon.

Some of you are quite aware, and some may have heard rumors that we've formed a planning committee to explore expanding our traditional "Spring Fling" fund raising dinner party into a weekend transgender event at a Harrisburg hotel. It is quite an exciting and promising venture, but not without problems and challenges, most of which are financial and logistical. Much has been accomplished, and I'll report on the current status of the endeavor at our regular monthly meeting on January 3.

Your elected officers have already held two board meetings during which we have worked on revamping our financial record keeping, restructuring our member lists, launching a new, revised and much improved website and the above mentioned non-profit status and proposed event. We feel very encouraged that TransCentralPA will continue to grow and strengthen in 2009, and ask all of you members to keep up your participation and active involvement...and to keep spreading the word and expanding our numbers.

With thanks, and warm wishes for a happy, healthy 2009

Jeanine R.



### Mark your Calendars!

Jan 3	TCPA Group Meeting
Jan 4	Tran-quility Meeting, Baltimore
Jan 14	First Event, Peabody, MA
Jan 24	Trans-Masculine Alliance Meeting, Baltimore
Feb 2	IFGE Conference, Alexandria
Feb 7	TCPA Group Meeting
Feb 26	Common Roads 2nd Annual GSA Leadership Summit, Dickinson College
Mar 7	TCPA Group Meeting
Mar 14	2009 Keystone Conference, Harrisburg, PA

Visit our website for more event info!

### Announcements (continued)

**IFGE Conference** from Feb 2-8 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 in Philadelphia, PA. 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)

### OTHER

The Endocrine Society has issued new draft guidelines for the treatment of transsexual persons, including children and adolescents. When this guideline is finally approved it will probably have an impact on the care of all transsexuals. These guidelines cover both MtF and FtM patients, as well as children, adolescents and adults. Visit their website at [www.endo-crine.org](http://www.endo-crine.org) for more info.



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