

## What We Do

TransCentralPA is a Not-for-Profit organization dedicated to serving the Transgender community in and around Central Pennsylvania.

- We host monthly meetings to provide a safe and nurturing place for members and guests to meet together to better understand, accept and take pride & joy in their Transgendered lives.
- We plan and organize outings and events where our members and guests can feel safe.
- We organize the TransCentralPA Speaker Series, sponsoring and hosting prominent Transgender leaders, doctors and organizations in the Central Pennsylvania area.
- We educate the public by providing guest speakers, brochures and material to businesses, education institutions and other organizations.
- We proudly participate and support other LGBTQ activities and organizations.
- We maintain an informative website that lists various Transgender resources, activities, events, and conferences as well as local Trans-friendly businesses and services.
- We work with other Trans-supportive organizations to coordinate and clarify laws and policies affecting the Transgender community in Pennsylvania.

## Why Join Our Organization

We ALL heal and grow stronger in an atmosphere of trust, confidence and frank sharing and disclosure. We realize that we serve ourselves and the Transgender community by being involved and active. By joining TransCentralPA, you can help support these efforts to educate and support the Transgender community while helping yourself to grow and understand you.

## Membership Requirements

Membership is open to all transgendered individuals, their significant others and to all other persons who have a personal or professional interest in a transgendered person or in gender behavior or theory in general. Membership requirements are:

1. You must be at least 18 years old to join. Those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian (proof is required under Pennsylvania Law).
2. A completed membership application. Membership applications are available at the monthly meetings and at our website. Those individuals making an initial application for membership must do so in person.
3. \$35 Membership Fee. Checks and Money Orders should be made out to "TransCentralPA."

## Contacting Us

Since we meet on a monthly basis, it may take 4-5 weeks before we respond to a letter sent via the mail. The best way to contact us is via email or our website.

We also use a Yahoo! Group to blog and communicate with our members and guests about events, news, articles of interest as well as general meeting information.

[www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/transcentralpa](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/transcentralpa)

# TransCentralPA

## **20 Years of Service!**

Serving the Transgender Community  
of Central Pennsylvania since 1989

# TransCentralPA



*The Transgender Education  
Association of Central Pennsylvania*

## Our Purpose

TransCentralPA is committed to providing education and caring support for transgendered individuals, their spouses, significant others, families, friends & allies. We are also actively involved in maintaining an outreach program to provide gender education to businesses, organizations, educational institutions and governmental agencies.

## Our Meetings

Our monthly gatherings provide a safe and nurturing place for members and guests to meet together to better understand, accept and take pride & joy in their transgendered lives. Our meetings are held at 8:30 PM (doors open at 8:00 pm) at the Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit in Harrisburg, PA. We host and sponsor other activities as well in various locations. Visit our website for more details.

[www.TransCentralPA.org](http://www.TransCentralPA.org)

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### How Trans-friendly is the local area?

The cities of Harrisburg and York are two of only 91 cities in the country that have formally adopted Gender Identity Anti-Discrimination Laws to protect their transgendered residents.

In 1983, Harrisburg adopted such discrimination laws along with sexual identity laws. These protections include, but are not limited to, public accommodation, housing, employment, education and the right to sue. In 1998, the City of York also adopted Gender Identity Anti-Discrimination Laws. Although not as inclusive as Harrisburg, York's laws offer protection in public accommodation, housing and employment.

In December 2002, the State of Pennsylvania added gender identity among other categories to their Hate Crime Law. There are several other cities and communities in Pennsylvania that offer similar protections for transgendered individuals. Currently there are several bills pending in the state legislature to further extend rights and protections to Transgendered individuals.

### Who can attend a meeting?

Although our group maintains an open door policy to anyone Transgendered, their significant others, families, friends and allies or who has a professional and sincere interest in the Trans-community, there may be times when some of our members may feel uncomfortable or threatened with the presence of an outside guest.

Those outside individuals that are not known on a very personal level and do not fit the description of Transgendered, family member, spouse, significant other or very close friend are asked to contact the group prior to attending via email or our website even if the individual has a professional interest in the Trans-community.

Members are highly encouraged to invite individuals they know on a personal level such as family members, spouses, significant others, very close friends as well as other Transgendered individuals. If you, as a member, have a concern about an

invited guest, please inform the Managing Director immediately. So as not to cause an embarrassing situation to you, the group, or members of our group, we ask our members to follow this protocol before inviting outside guests.

This does not prohibit members of our group to talk about TransCentralPA nor is this intended to discourage our members from encouraging outside individuals from participating in the Trans-community. There is a delicate balance between our member's privacy and our openness to the general public and we must remember how extremely important it is for us to use cautious discretion when inviting outside individuals.

### How much does it cost?

TransCentralPA is a non-profit organization funded by the dues of our members and donations of our guests and benefactors. Our annual membership dues are \$35 with no additional per meeting fee. Guests are highly encouraged, but not required, to donate \$5 per meeting to help offset the cost of the meeting. TransCentralPA uses this money to pay for the meeting space and other general expenses of the group.

### What about privacy?

TransCentralPA is absolutely committed to protecting our members' and guests' privacy. These policies are codified in our Bylaws and Rules of Conduct. All members and guests are required to abide by the Rules of Conduct. The Rules of Conduct and Bylaws are posted on our website and are available in writing upon request at our meetings.

### Can I change at the meeting?

The doors open approximately at 8:00 pm and the meeting starts at 8:30 pm. The bathroom facilities are available if you need to change before the meeting begins. There are no shower facilities in the church.

### Which bathroom do I use?

While at our meeting, use whichever one you feel most comfortable with! Outside of our meeting, we recommend as a general rule of thumb to use the bathroom that best aligns with the gender you are outwardly expressing.

### What is the history of the group?

TransCentralPA was formerly known as the Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter of Renaissance and has been serving the Trans-community since 1989. In 2006, the group broke from Renaissance and reestablished itself as an individual entity to better serve the needs of its members and the community.

### What group resources are available?

TransCentralPA not only maintains a website with a variety of links but also a library of Transgendered books, videos, newsletters, brochures and other material that are available to members to sign-out at no cost. Non-members of TransCentralPA will be asked to provide a fully-refundable deposit of \$20. Please remember that most of these items have been donated or are on loan from other members. We ask that you take care of the materials accordingly.

### How do I join the mailing list?

TransCentralPA sends out a monthly newsletter as well as reminders for various activities. If you would like to be kept up to date of group activities, please send us your request via an email to [info@TransCentralPA.org](mailto:info@TransCentralPA.org) and we'll be happy to add you to our email list.

### How can I participate?

TransCentralPA has many opportunities for you to give back to the Trans-community depending upon your abilities, availability and openness. Donate your old Transgender books, videos and magazines; help out with the group meetings; participate in one of our panel discussions at a college or university; be a big brother/sister to a new person or simply share the story of your journey with us. Everyone's situation is unique, so do and share whatever you feel comfortable with.

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c/o MCC of the Spirit  
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