

## What TransCentralPA Does

We are a not-for-profit association dedicated to serving the transgender community of greater Central Pennsylvania.

We host monthly meetings to provide a safe and nurturing place for members and guests to better understand, accept, take pride and find joy in their transgender lives.

We stage the Keystone Conference: a Celebration of Gender Diversity annually every March. This event is one of the largest, best attended such educational and social gatherings in the United States.

We plan and organize outings and events where our members and guests can feel welcome.

We educate the public by providing guest speakers, brochures and material to businesses, education institutions and other organizations.

We proudly participate with 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 transgender friendly businesses and services.

We tirelessly advocate for the acceptance, welfare and civil rights of transgender Pennsylvanians.

We work with other transgender supportive organizations to change laws and improve policies and procedures that affect Pennsylvania's transgender people.

## **Over 24 Years of Service**

Serving the Transgender Community  
of Central Pennsylvania since 1989

# *The* Keystone Conference

***A Celebration of Gender Diversity***

*Come join us for "A Celebration of Gender Diversity," hosted by TransCentralPA in the capitol city of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania! We promise an informative, inspirational and wonderful time among members and supporters of the Transgender community at the lovely Sheraton Hotel each year in March.*

*The Keystone Conference treats attendees to varied and meaningful workshops and seminars with four nights of social functions, the finale being Saturday night's Keystone Gala in the Sheraton's resplendent ballroom.*

*As the keystone bridges and holds together associated entities, so do transgender people. The Keystone Conference is an exploration of gender and a celebration of transgender people's central and unifying place in it.*

*Make your plans to join us at our annual celebration. We promise that you won't find a better value!*



**Keystone-Conference.org**

# TransCentralPA

Support Education Advocacy

## Purpose

TransCentralPA is committed to providing education and caring support for transgender individuals, their spouses, significant others, families, friends & allies. TransCentralPA provides gender education to businesses, organizations, educational institutions and governmental agencies and actively advocates for the transgender community locally and statewide.

## Support

TransCentralPA holds monthly support meetings that provide a safe and nurturing place for members and guests to understand, accept, find joy and take pride in their transgender lives. Meetings are held regularly each month at the Metropolitan Community Church of the Spirit in Harrisburg, PA. We also host and sponsor other activities in various locations. Please visit our website for dates, times and details or email us at: [info@TransCentralPA.org](mailto:info@TransCentralPA.org).

## Education and Advocacy

TransCentralPA supplies informed speakers and advocates to businesses, organizations, educational institutions, governmental groups and institutions, religious organizations and other individuals or groups who seek information and knowledge about transgender people and the issues we face. Please email us with requests for information at [educateadvocate@TransCentralPA.org](mailto:educateadvocate@TransCentralPA.org). Our vital educational event, the Keystone Conference, is held in Harrisburg annually in March.

# TransCentralPA.org

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Who may attend monthly support group meetings?

Our meetings are free and open to everyone! We don't charge monthly meeting fees (although donations are always accepted). We don't want anyone to feel that they cannot attend our meetings simply because of money. So please come join us.

While our group maintains an open door policy to transgender people, their significant others, families, friends and allies and those who have a professional interest in the transgender community, some transgender attendees 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 transgender, family member, spouse, significant other or very close friend are asked to contact the group administration through the email link on our website prior to attending.

Members and regular attendees are encouraged to invite individuals they personally know, such as family members, spouses, significant others, very close friends as well as other transgender individuals. Members that have concerns about an invited guest are asked to inform one of the officers and to express the cause of their discomfort. We ask members and guests to exercise discretion when inviting outside guests in deference to the comfort and security of other members and guests. We need to respect the balance between our member's privacy and our openness to the general public.

## 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.

## Which bathroom do I use?

While at our meeting, use the bathroom you feel most comfortable with. Outside of our meeting, we recommend you use the bathroom that best aligns with the gender you identify as and express.

## May I change clothes or other gender attributes 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.

## How supportive is Central Pennsylvania of transgender people?

The cities of Harrisburg, York and Susquehanna Township are among a minority group of municipalities, townships and boroughs in Pennsylvania that have adopted gender identity anti-discrimination laws to protect their transgender residents. Current Pennsylvania law provides basic legal protection against discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, age, national origin, handicap or disability, education and the use of a guide dog, but unlike 21 other states does not provide protection on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. TransCentralPA advocates amending the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act (PHRA) as proposed by House Bill 300 to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

## Why become a member of TransCentralPA?

All people heal and grow stronger in an atmosphere of trust, confidence and honest sharing and disclosure. We serve ourselves and our community best by being involved and active. By joining TransCentralPA as a member, you will help support our efforts to educate and support our transgender community while helping yourself grow and gain better understanding.

Membership is open to transgender people, their significant others and those persons who have a personal or professional interest in transgender people and gender studies. Those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian (proof is required under Pennsylvania Law). There is no requirement to become a member, guests are always welcome.

## How much are membership dues?

TransCentralPA is a non-profit organization partially funded by the dues of our members, which are used to pay for the meeting space and other general expenses of the group. If you are interested in joining and supporting our group by becoming a member, it's \$20 a year, that's it.

## What is the history of TransCentralPA?

TransCentralPA was formerly known as Renaissance Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter and has been serving the Trans-community continually since 1989. TransCentralPA chose independence from Renaissance in 2006 and established itself as a 501(c)(3) non profit association to better serve the needs of the community.

## What group resources are available?

TransCentralPA maintains a website with a wealth of information and links and a library of transgender books, videos, newsletters, brochures and other material that are available to members to sign-out at no cost. 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 community depending upon your desire, abilities, availability and openness. You might choose to donate your 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 others. Everyone's situation is unique, so please volunteer however you feel most comfortable.

**TransCentralPA**

c/o MCC of the Spirit  
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