

## **The TransGender New Hampshire (TG-NH) Monthly Bulletin**

**Email: [TransgenderNH@gmail.com](mailto:TransgenderNH@gmail.com)**

**Web: [www.tgnh.org](http://www.tgnh.org)**

**Issue # 2 (August 2010)**

### **1. The End of Summer is Approaching!**

It's hard to believe that Summer is almost over. With a bit over a month left, many will be returning to school or work from their summer vacations. TG-NH is excited to become active in the Fall in a variety of ways. Please read over this Bulletin for ways to get involved. In order for TG-NH to move forward, we need human resources and financial resources. Please join us to help create trans community in NH.

### **2. The NH Coalition for Transgender Equality**

#### **Help move transgender equality forward in New Hampshire!**

A new coalition of organizations and local community leaders has formed in New Hampshire to advance public education and understanding regarding the transgender community. The New Hampshire Coalition for Transgender Equality was formed early this year in hopes of laying the groundwork of public support in New Hampshire for advancing protections for all individuals, regardless of their gender identity or expression. The coalition's core partner so far consist of Granite State Progress, the New Hampshire chapter of the National Association for Social Workers, PFLAG – NH, the SEIU 1984's Lavender Caucus, GLAD, the Rt. Reverend Gene Robinson, and local transgender community leaders Gerri Cannon, Dr. Jennifer Madden and M. Mae Dunn.

However, we need your help! We are seeking transgender individuals and non-transgender allies who would be willing to share their stories of all kinds – both regarding discrimination and successes – related to the transgender community. **If you are interested in helping us in this effort, please contact [lkiritsy@glad.org](mailto:lkiritsy@glad.org).**

Also, if you are part of an organization that would like to get involved in the coalition's efforts, please contact [jwu@glad.org](mailto:jwu@glad.org) for more information. We hope to create a broad spectrum of support from the New Hampshire community in support of transgender equality. Come one, come all and be a part of history in the making.

### **3. TG-NH at Transform NH**

TransGender New Hampshire was happy to attend the TransForm New Hampshire Conference in Concord, NH on July 23-25. The conference was sponsored by Trans Mentors International and the New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union. Trans and allied people from across the state, New England and the U.S. gathered for 2 days of focused discussion about trans identities, community and civil rights.

On Sunday morning, 10 folks gathered for a TG-NH meeting at the conference. TG-NH would like to thank the conference organizers for allowing TG-NH the time and space to meet. We had a very fruitful discussion about the situation of trans folks in NH and the need for community, a trans infrastructure in NH, greater availability and visibility of trans-specific resources, and the passage of trans civil rights in the legislature. It was great to meet and talk about the needs for trans folks in the state of NH. Several of the meeting attendees have extensive expertise in other states organizing for trans community building and the passage of trans civil rights bills. These folks generously shared ideas and talked about what TG-NH can do to work towards success.

### **3. Mailing List**

Here at TG-NH we are trying to create a big mailing list to reach as many trans people in NH, as well as SOFFAs (Significant Others, Friends, Families, and Allies) as we possibly can. In addition, we welcome interested trans and SOFFA folks from neighboring New England states and even nationally if there is interest in our organization. Please talk to your friends, partners, families and colleagues to find additional folks that we can reach out to. Ask them to send an email to [TransgenderNH@gmail.com](mailto:TransgenderNH@gmail.com) and we will add them to our list for the Bulletin and related communications. Also, encourage them to join our Facebook Group. Soon, TG-NH will also be joining Twitter. In addition, the PDFs of these Bulletins will be archived on the websites. Thank you for helping us to reach out to the community of NH and beyond!

### **4. Bulletin Title**

So far we have two contenders for the name of this bulletin:

- \* TransNews and Views
- \* Trans Missions

These are great suggestions. I would like to see someone add one more suggestion to give us three possible titles. Then, I encourage you to name your favorite on the Bulletin Board on the TG-NH Facebook Page. The person who suggests the winning title will receive a \$25 gift card to Best Buy!

### **5. Your Text Here!**

Do you like to write? Do you have a poem, a rant, a short article or experience you would like to share? Do you have a write-up pertaining to your organization or about an event that you attended and/or sponsored? Would you like to share your experience at TransForm NH? We at TG-NH would LOVE to print your piece in this bulletin. Little publications like this rely on the kindness of people who graciously provide us permission to print their work. If you have a story related to transgenderism, please write to us about including it in the next or future edition of this Bulletin. It will be a great way to reach out to other members of the trans and allied NH community.

## **6. Gender Identities Awareness (GIA) Week**

Gender Identities Awareness Week will take place on the campus of UNH-Durham from November 15-19. We are currently seeking speakers, workshop presenters, performers and films for inclusion in this week-long educational program. In addition, we will be holding the Transgender Day of Remembrance. TG-NH will begin meeting in September to plan this series of events. We would love committed folks who would like to join us for the planning committee. If you are interested in joining, or recommending a program for GIA (including yourself!) please send an email to [TransgenderNH@gmail.com](mailto:TransgenderNH@gmail.com)

## **7. Next TG-NH Social**

We would like to have another TG-NH Social night in late September. Do you know of a restaurant or space that would be a good host for us? Would you be willing to host a TG-NH social at your home, place of employment or place of worship? We would love to chat with you about making this become a reality. Please contact us and we can set it up!

## **8. A Probing and Important Reflection from Janice Josephine Carney:**

My soul is divided among three states: “Home is where your heart is” or so I have heard many times. The last decade my soul, my spirit, my physical presence have been evenly split among Massachusetts, Florida, and New Hampshire. I have lobbied the state legislators of these three states Defending my civil rights as a transgender citizen. It will be a long time before the Crazy, fundamentalist Christians That have total control in the state of Florida Ever recognize the civil rights of any LGBT citizen. My big question after the weekend conference in NH is which state will be first to add Gender identity protections to us first: New Hampshire or Massachusetts?

## **9. Reflections on TransForm New Hampshire:**

Below are the reflections of several folks on the TransForm NH event. TG-NH thanks them SO much for sharing their experiences with us!

From Joanna Danielle Sorenson:

“TransForm NH was an over-all well executed conference that drew together an outstanding collection of GLBT activists from all over New England, Arizona (Kim Pearson) and beyond dedicated to promoting transgender issues in a meaningful and learned manner. From media issues, to trans children’s issues, to couples issues, to activism there were topics of interest to most members of the transgender community and those interested in learning about the transgender community. A great bonding experience that hopefully helps dissolve false stereotypes. Way to go TransForm NH!”

From Janice Josephine Carney:

“I experienced a delightful surprise in Concord, NH last weekend. The Transform NH Conference was just the right size and brought together a mixture of transgender people, friends, family and allies. In a mix of workshops, entertainment and breaking bread, I was witness to an example of how conferences should be organized. The focus on our youth with the mothers/fathers of our children fighting for their children’s civil rights was the High point of the weekend. The most interesting aspect of the weekend was the fact that the Trans women representing HRC joked that she was the only person attending the conference that was being paid. As she put it, I am being paid by well-off gay men. She never did, as far as I know, make any statements on what HRC is doing to aid our transgender youth. I am sad to admit that I never heard of Peterson Toscano before this weekend. Peterson is the most supportive and understanding gay man that I have met that gets the “T” part of LGBT. His workshop and short play were amazing. The screening of a short film by Foster Barnes called “Sugar and Spice,” highlighted the experiences of four Transgender women from the St. Petersburg Florida area.”

From M. Mae Dunn:

“TransForm New Hampshire presented a unique opportunity to not only bring the Trans community from around the region together, but also bring together those ready to learn about this fascinating community. The weekend was filled with education, discussion, and compassion and has left many of us feeling more optimistic about the future of Trans rights in state of New Hampshire. My only hope is that we can keep the momentum going after such an event, and keep the connections we created during the conference strong.”

Here is the URL for an article about the conference by *The Concord Monitor*:

<http://www.concordmonitor.com/article/falling-gracefully-into-true-gender>

## **10. Until September**

Well, that is all for this edition of the TG-NH Bulletin. Thanks for reading! I wish all my trans-fabulous peeps, partners, friends, families and allies a wonderful wrap-up to the summer. TG-NH looks forward to speaking with you again in September. In the mean time, please drop us a line and consider getting involved to move trans community and civil rights forward in NH.