

Volume 1, Issue 5 - May 2010



Transgender Education Network of Texas

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Newsletter Note

Okay, so yes, the newsletter is STILL a work in progress. And it is also getting sent out late this month, so apologies to anyone just sitting there and tapping their toes waiting anxiously for it to arrive in their email inbox. This edition is fairly light on content, but it still contains important and useful information, so please take the time to read. Also note that we will be posting the newsletters on our website so that they can be available for viewing in other than an email. This also gives you a chance to browse through previous editions whenever you like.

We still would like to include content for activities in other parts of Texas, so if you would like to be a contributor of articles or know of relevant happenings across the state, please contact us by emailing to newsletter@tentex.org

Community Update

Central Texas Annual Picnic

Saturday, May 15, noon-4:00 PM

Dove Springs Park (Stassney and Nuckles Crossing)

5801 Ainez Dr, Austin TX 78744

(Rain plans: If it rains, the picnic will move to Casa Scheps. For directions call Rifka at 517-8202 or email lisa@tentex.org)

Come join friends old and new as we hang in the (covered!) picnic area, munch yummy food (potluck) and have a wonderful time.

Please bring:

- A dish to share - we are expecting about 40 people- we will have grills available
- Serving utensils for your dish
- Consider bringing an ice chest and/or ice to help keep cold dishes and drinks cold
- BYOB - alcohol is allowed but you may NOT walk around with glass containers (plastic cups will be available)
- musical instruments

Already provided:

Upcoming Events

June 5

Austin Pride 2010 - see the www.austinpride2010.org website's Events link for more details about the day-long events.

Do you know of an event in your area coming up in the next month that is worth sharing? We need to hear from other areas in Texas so that we can make this newsletter a statewide resource. Send your information to info@tentex.org.

- Ketchup, mayo, mustard
- Hot dog and hamburger buns
- Plates etc
- Grill/charcoal

Hope to see you there!!!!!!! Look for the TENT banner.
If questions, contact Rifka Reichler at rifka@tentex.org
512-517-8202

Executive Director's Report

Reasonable Ramblings from The Executive Director

It has been quite a month for TENT and for Me...Lisa Scheps, the new Executive Director. (by the way, I have been informed that, to some people, the use of the initials generally regarded by most to take the place of Executive Director make some think of a disorder suffered by many male identified people. There are many pills that advertise on the tellie with high-falootin' spokes people that combat the problem. These initials make some folks giggle and twitter and generally feel all agog! - I'll use 'em anyway). Here are some of the highlights of what has been going on - remember, this is just a partial list - and in no particular order... This article is not big enough to handle ALL that has been going on.

1. 501(c)(3) application has been submitted and we are waiting approval. We have no reason to believe that we will be turned down so now is the time to start fundraising. In the coming months we will need to raise money to pay for many of the programs and growth that we are now experiencing. With the 501(c)(3), donations to TENT will be fully deductible as a charitable gift.
2. We have applied for membership, and were accepted to the [Equality Federation](#). This important organization is comprised of state-wide queer social justice groups like ours and will be a tremendous resource for us moving forward. We are one of just a handful of groups that focus on transgender issues. In June (right after prideÉ the DAY after, as a matter of fact), I will be traveling to Raleigh, NC for an ED (sorry Steph) boot camp that is sponsored by the Federation. I expect to be coming back with lots of tools to make TENT a better organization.
3. Board member, Susan French, and I went to the Houston Unity Banquet at the beginning of the month. Houston has such a wonderful trans community -- full of life and passion. I was able to address the group, tell them about TENT and our plans and was met with open arms and enthusiasm. I was proud to represent TENT. While I was in Houston, I visited the [Transgender Center](#) run by the Transgender Foundation of America. I was blown away. This is an incredible place to go and Cristan Williams, the executive director (ED), is so knowledgeable on transgender history. I highly recommend a trip to Houston just to visit the center.
4. I have been talking to many people and am setting up meetings to learn more about our community around the State. I will be in Dallas from May 25 - 27 meeting with lots of folks there and have plans to visit West Texas, East Texas and the Panhandle in the

future

5. We are preparing for Pride here in Austin and will be attending Pride in other towns around the State. I was honored by being selected as a Grand Marshall here in Austin and will do my best to represent the Pride of the Trans Community here.
6. We are working on the foundation of TENT to make sure that we are strong from an organizational, fiscal and financial standpoint. Ah, the joy of setting up filing systems and perfecting financial software! Fun fun fun - don't be jealous.
7. We have been out there talking to folks in the greater community about our issues and have set up trainings around Central Texas with the education and care communities among others and we look forward to working with Trans Groups around the state to help them develop trainings for their local service providers.

Ok, that was by no means a comprehensive list, but I think it is clear that TENT is working. And working hard! This year, in October we will be having our first annual gala (term used loosely) fundraiser. It is called "Little Lucifer's Luau" and will be a devilishly good time with an islandy theme! Come on, you know that it sounds like a blast.. and you are going to want to be there!! Our very dear friends at Genuine Joe are our Venue Sponsors, so please visit them often! Look for changes to our website with better, more up to date resources and calendar.

Oy vey! So much to do! And I, for one, am having fun doing it. Please contact me via email lisa@tentex.org or phone 877.532.6789 ext 1 if you want to talk about our plans, the community or just want to chat.

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Contributors to this edition: Lisa Scheps, Rifka Reichler. Edited and designed by Tiana Chandler.

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