

Transgender Education Network of Texas

www.transtexas.org

Welcome New Board Member

Transgender Education Network of Texas, in our goal to be a true statewide organization, has been recruiting board members from outside the Central Texas area. We are proud to announce our newest board member, Dr. Oliver Blumer.

Dr. Blumer is a native Texan born in Amarillo. He lives in Dallas, Texas with his wife, Mary Kay and their four-legged Husky son Chi. Dr. Blumer has practiced Chiropractic medicine since graduation from Parker College of Chiropractic in 1990. He has maintained a full time private practice until June 2008 when he began medical transition. He now has a boutique practice and spends time in independent research pertaining to Transition, Transgender and Gender non-conforming psychosocial issues, health care, education and advocacy, diversity training and trans-inclusion.

Currently Dr. Blumer serves on the Youth First Texas Board of Directors and is Chair of the Human Development and Services Committee. He serves on the Development and Volunteer committees as well (www.youthfirsttexas.org). Youth First Texas (YFT) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing LGBTQYA youth with a safe place to gather, socialize, learn leadership skills, participate in support groups and receive free counseling services. YFT, to date, has seen over 1,700 separate youth visits since January 2010. Dr. Blumer was and remains a key participant in establishing a free counseling program at YFT. The counselors are interns from a number of area and national University counseling degree programs and as such, interns are present for six months to a year.

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Upcoming Events

August 14 – 3:00-4:30 PM

Central Texas Monthly Program, Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 West Anderson Lane, Austin, TX

September 11 – 12:00 PM-4:00 PM

Central Texas Annual Picnic, Dove Springs Park (Stassney & Nuckles Crossing), 5801 Ainez Dr., Austin, TX

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 newsletter@transtexas.org.

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Through establishing the Human Development and Services committee, Dr. Blumer has initiated and supported: 1) Free counseling for the Youth, 2) A collaborative program with Resource Center Dallas to provide HIV/STI testing, education, outreach and follow-up care to Youth 14-22 years of age, 3) Collaborative exchange of education and leadership programs delivered by the staff of Contact Dallas/TEEN Contact crisis and suicide center. This organization also provides 24-hour crisis and suicide hotline for LGBTQ youth, 4) Piloted liaison with Dallas TRAC (www.traconline.org) to provide housing, job training, medical care and caseworker to qualified Youth who have been part of the CPS system.

Other volunteer and avocational pursuits: 1) member of recently formed Task Force for sheltering homeless LGBTQ youth, 2) peer counselor for those questioning and seeking information and emotional support as they navigate the phases of transition, 3) provide pre and post operative support to transmen receiving medical transition Gender Surgery locally and out of state, 4) volunteers four evenings a month at Resource Center Dallas phones for general and transgender information.

Dr. Blumer and his wife are presenters for education, health care and diversity topics and have co-presented at Gender Odyssey Conference in Seattle and for Safe Zone programs at University of Texas/Dallas. Recently, Dr. Blumer presented at the Butch Voices Conference/Dallas on a Transman/Butch panel and a workshop on Masculine Identified people and health care (www.butchvoices.com).

Dr. Blumer has served as Chair of the Parker College Alumnae Board and Director of The Women's Chorus of Dallas Board. He is an organizer and mentor for the FTM_DFW social and support group with over 100 members on Yahoo group list. He participated in the LGBT Task Force Academy training during "Creating Change 2010" concentrating on Transgender inclusion in health care, business, faith based organizations and grass-root activism.

In his spare time and when his second puberty is not messing with his voice, Dr. Blumer sings with Resounding Harmony, a community chorus founded to provide engaged philanthropic funding to two organizations each year (www.resoundingharmony.org).

Executive Director's Report

Reasonable Ramblings from the Executive Director

This will be a short, sweet ramble from me this month. Although many things have happened, we are in the dog days of summer and I want to keep this short so that I can get out into the sunshine!

The very, very big news is that Transgender Education Network of Texas received official notification from the IRS that we have been approved as a 501(c)(3). This is huge! So now our real work begins. We have much to do and a long way to go. One wonderful side effect of getting our 501(c)(3) is that when you (yes, I'm talking to you) make a generous donation to TENT, it is fully tax-deductable! So, please consider digging deep and giving. Email me (<mailto:lisa@transtexas.org>)

By now, I'm sure that everyone is aware that there is a case in the courts that will quite likely be a landmark case – the case of Nikki Araguz, widow of Thomas Araguz who died in the line of duty. Thomas Araguz family, along with his ex-wife, took this time to spew hate and is trying to deny that the marriage of Nikki and Thomas was valid because Nikki is transsexual. Sound familiar? Well, It should... there are many parallels to the case of Christie Lee Littleton. We are hoping to reverse that 4th circuit court decision. That is going to take a lot of recourses. After making a generous donation to TENT, consider donating to Nikki's legal Defense (<http://liberatinglaw.com/>) or her living expenses as her assets have been frozen.

TENT was represented by yours' truly as a member of the Advisory Board of a new coalition aimed at grassroots organizing for the Gender Diverse. Trans Advocacy Network (www.TransAdvocacyNetwork.org) was formed in July during a gathering of the advisory board in Memphis. Look for this organization to grow and know that TENT will be front and center.

We plan to be very visible at the Capitol this session. Working alongside Equality Texas we want to see some real positive movement in the areas that concern the Gender Diverse. So keep the first week of March open for the Equality Texas Lobby days and join TENT in our second biannual Transgender Caucus. We plan to have the caucus last a half day this year.

Well, that's it for this month. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Central Texas Program meeting on August 14th at Genuine Joe.

Community Update

Central Texas Transgender Day of Remembrance

Next Central Texas DOR planning meeting is August 21st at 2:00pm. For directions contact susan@transtexas.org. For more info contact rifka@transtexas.org.

Central Texas Monthly Program

August 14, 3:00-4:30 PM. The August program will be held at Genuine Joe Coffeehouse at 3:00pm. Our speaker will be from the Austin Gay and Lesbian Police Officer Association (AGLPOA). We hope to see lots of you at the program.

Central Texas Annual Picnic

This rescheduled event will now be on Saturday, September 11, noon-4:00 PM, at the Dove Springs Park (Stassney and Nuckles Crossing), 5801 Ainez Dr. in Austin. Come join friends old and new as we hang in the (covered!) picnic area, munch yummy food (potluck) and have a wonderful time. We anticipate about 40 people attending, so please bring:

- A dish to share or something for the grill
- Serving utensils for your dish
- 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 (if you are so inclined)

Already provided will be:

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

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

Little Lucifer's Luau

Planning continues for TENT's first annual fundraising event, scheduled for October 8th in Austin. Keep a lookout for more details.

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

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