

**May 2015**

**LGBT Business Council**

Letter from the Council

**Dr. Lizabeth Kay Kleintop**, Moravian College  
Co-Chair, LGBT Business Council  
610-625-7704 • kleintopl@moravian.edu

There is a good chance that by the time you read this, the Inaugural LGBT Gala on May 9 will have past. I think we on the LGBT Business Council and its various committees will be pausing, reflecting, and enjoying the afterglow of a successful event! The evening of May 9th looms as an important celebration of our community and of the many Chamber members, businesses and individuals, who have contributed to the community. I want to thank them and our sponsors, and there is a long and growing list of sponsors as of this writing, for their support for the celebration.

If, per chance, you are reading this before May 9, rush to The Chamber's website, click on events, click on May 9, and get your tickets! There might be some still left. Maybe.

The highlight of May 9 is our guest for the evening, State Representative for Pennsylvania's 182nd Legislative District, Brian Sims. I have my little dream of what Representative Sims will say to us at the Gala.

In my dream, Representative Sims tells us about the gains the LGBT community has made in the past two years: same-sex marriage; businesses that tell Indiana and Arkansas to change legislation that allows discrimination against members of the LGBT community; executive orders from President Obama that enforce non-discrimination policies including those protecting the LGBT community; and the appointment by Governor Wolf of Dr. Rachel Levine to be Pennsylvania's Physician General. We have seen many changes over the last few years that are wonderful for our community, for ourselves and Pennsylvania.

I also dream that Representative Sims will tell us of the work that is yet to be done. That in Pennsylvania a same-sex couple can be marry on Saturday and be fired on Monday by their employer because they are gay, lesbians, bisexual, or transgender. That a woman could be refused housing because she is transgender. That a patron could be refused service at a restaurant because she and her partner are lesbians. Those of us who live in Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton sometimes forget that most LGBT Pennsylvanians do not enjoy the protection of local non-discrimination ordinances that protect us.

I dream that Representative Sims will remind us that in our contentment we need to work to extend the feeling of safety we have to the rest of Pennsylvania's LGBT community, some of whom live next door in the boroughs and townships of

the Lehigh Valley and the surrounding counties that all make up the Greater Lehigh Valley.

It is a dream, my ideas. I do not know what Representative Sims will speak to us about on May 9. I surely am not expecting him to take my lead. I just have my dream.

And, as I come out of my dream I am thinking ahead to our next monthly events and, yes, another Wedding Expo in fall. Stay tuned!