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LGBT Business Council

Letter from the Council

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It is with great sadness that I write my last *Connections* article as chair of the LGBT Business Council. However, my sadness quickly fades when I think back on all the great work we've accomplished. I can remember early on in 2012, just as our council was getting started, attending board meetings where there were only three of us around the table. At times, it seemed like we would never find enough volunteers to join us nor come up with enough original ideas for events every month.

Three years later, we've grown by tremendous leaps and bounds. We've established four sub-committees that are brimming with members who are enthusiastic and committed to their respective teams. Each month we strive to put on wonderful events for our community. They may be educational, networking opportunities, or simply topical. Last fall we presented the Lehigh Valley's first same-sex wedding expo, showcasing local businesses that were proud to help that bride or groom plan their perfect wedding. This event will return again this fall, bigger and better than the last. And, we just finished putting on our first gala where we raised \$10,000 to support the valley's first LGBT community center, the Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center.

As you can see, it's an exciting time to be a part of the LGBT Business Council. I am very grateful for the opportunity to have led and helped strengthen such a young council. I am extremely thankful to our board and committee members for their time, energy, commitment, and passion. Without them, and without hardworking chamber staff members like Daniel Diaz, Danielle Joseph, and Robert Sandoval, we would never be where we are today. Thank you!