



Oregon Central Coast Chapter

July 2010

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Parents, Families and
Friends of Lesbians
and Gays promotes
the health and well-
being of gay, lesbian,
bisexual, and trans-
gendered persons,
their families, and
their friends through

SUPPORT to cope
with an adverse
society

EDUCATION to
enlighten an ill-
informed public

ADVOCACY to end
discrimination and
secure equal civil
rights.

Take Action!

consumeraffairs@homedepot.com/800-430-3376

The above email/telephone number can be used to contact Home Depot if you want to tell them that you appreciate their supporting gay rights by conducting Kid's Crafts Workshops at Southern Maine Pride and Boston Pride Festival. [This information came from AFA Action Alert that also directed readers to call Brad Shaw, Vice President of Public Relations, at 770-384-5350.] We can spread the word about Home Depot to show them how much we appreciate their doing this!

President Barack Obama has called for policies to ensure hospital visitation for LGBT patients and their families. The Department of Health and Human is now asking for input regarding the draft of this regulation. You can provide this at <http://hractioncenter.org/HospitalComment>.

An introduction to your response might be the following: I am writing to urge you to adopt the Proposed Rule, published June 28, 2010, that would require all hospitals receiving Medicare and Medicaid funding to respect the visitation rights of all patients, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people and their families.

The conservative evangelical group is opposing Elena Kagan as a Supreme Court Justice on the basis that she supports LGBTs. <http://bit.ly/8YRLA9> Our senators should know that support for LGBT causes is a positive position.

Followup on Hastings College of the Law: A public law school did not violate First Amendment rights of a Christian Legal Society chapter when it refused to recognize and fund the group, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 28. "[The Constitution] may protect CLS's discriminatory practices off campus, [but] it does not require a public university to validate or support them," wrote Justice John Paul Stevens.

President Obama's Proclamation on LGBT Pride Month

"As Americans, it is our birthright that all people are created equal and deserve the same rights, privileges, and opportunities. An important chapter in our great, unfinished story is the movement for fairness and equality on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. This month, as we recognize the immeasurable contributions of LGBT Americans, we renew our commitment to the struggle for equal rights for LGBT Americans and to ending prejudice and injustice.

"LGBT Americans have enriched and strengthened the fabric of our national life. From business leaders and professors to athletes and first responders, LGBT individuals have achieved success and prominence in every discipline. They are our mothers and fathers, our sons and daughters, and our friends and neighbors. Across my Administration, openly LGBT employees are serving at every level. Thanks to those who came before us, the brave men and women who marched, stood up to injustice, and brought change through acts of compassion or defiance, we continue to strive for a more perfect union."

[List of accomplishments:

The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act;

Renewal of the Ryan White CARE Act;

Presidential Memorandum directing hospitals receiving Medicare and Medicaid funds to give LGBT patients the compassion and security they deserve;

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) proposals to ensure core housing programs are open to everyone;

HUD's first ever national study of discrimination against members of the LGBT community in the rental and sale of housing;

Department of Health and Human Services creation of a National Resource Center for LGBT Elders.]

"Much work remains to fulfill our Nation's promise of equal justice under law for LGBT Americans. That is why we must give committed gay couples the same rights and responsibilities afforded to any married couple, and repeal the Defense of Marriage Act. We must protect the rights of LGBT families by securing their adoption rights, ending employment discrimination against LGBT Americans, and ensuring Federal employees receive equal benefits. We must create safer schools so all our children may learn in a supportive environment.



"I am also committed to ending "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" so patriotic LGBT Americans can serve openly in our military, and I am working with the Congress and our military leadership to accomplish that goal.

"As we honor the LGBT Americans who have given so much to our Nation, let us remember that if one of us is unable to realize full equality, we all fall short of our founding principles. Our Nation draws its strength from our diversity, with each of us contributing to the greater whole. By affirming these rights and values, each American benefits from the further advancement of liberty and justice for all."

The above comes from the proclamation signed by President Barack Obama on May 28, 2010, regarding Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month.

Politics on Our Side

Although the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 8-1 that **Washington state can release the names of the 138,000 people who signed ballot petitions to overturn a same-sex domestic partnership law**, religious conservatives who tried to block the release of these signatures will ask for a specific exemption in federal court in Tacoma. With the exception of Justice Clarence Thomas, the court found that the Public Records Act covered signers of initiative and referendum petitions. Project Marriage Washington will need to prove that releasing the names will result in a “reasonable probability” that people will be subject to “threats, harassment, or reprisals from either government officials or private parties.”

Gay rights in Oregon won a victory when Ron Mauer conceded the race for state superintendent to incumbent Susan Castillo. Among his other positions such as anti-evolution, anti-abortion (no matter what the reason, anti-extension of health care to indigent Oregon Children, anti-same-sex marriage/domestic partnership, and pro-gun-carrying in the schools, Mauer voted against extending non-discrimination protections to gay and transgender Oregonians while he was in the state legislature. As of mid-June, Castillo had 50.02 percent of the vote, 128 votes more than she needed to avoid a runoff with Mauer in November.

The Labor Department has issued regulations ordering businesses to give **gay employees equal treatment under a law permitting workers unpaid time off to care for newborns or loved ones**. The Family and Medical Leave Act allows workers for companies with more than 50 employees to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave each year to take care of loved ones or them-

selves. The 1993 law, which also allows employees to take time off for adoptions, has previously only been applied to heterosexual couples.

The Justice Department has decided that **federal prosecutors should enforce criminal provisions in the Violence Against Women Act in cases involving gay and lesbian relationships**. Tracy Schmalzer, a Justice Department spokeswoman, said that the office’s decision has been sent as guidance to federal prosecutors around the country. According to David J. Barron, the acting assistant attorney general of the Justice Department’s Office of Legal Counsel, the Violence Against Women Act includes terms not covered by the Defense of Marriage Act, such as “dating partner” and “intimate partner.” Moreover, he noted, the text of the act uses gender-neutral language, such as “another person” instead of “a woman,” proof that Congress intended the protections to cover same-sex couples as well as heterosexual ones.

The U.S. State Department has announced a new policy that **no longer requires passport applicants seeking a gender change to have undergone sexual reassignment surgery**. It allows a gender change with a certification from an attending physician confirming only that the passport applicant has undergone treatment for gender transition. Limited-validity passports for applicants who are in the process of gender transition also will be available under the policy.

The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that **same-sex couples must be treated the same as heterosexual couples under a feature of California tax law**, opening a tax benefit to many same-sex. It may also affect couples in Nevada and Washington.

Learning about the high number of homeless lgbtq youth, Reed Cowan decided to document Prop 8, a symptom of the same “hatred spilling out from the pulpit” that was leading to gay youth homelessness in Utah. **8: The Mormon Proposition**, released in mid-June, shows how the leadership of the Mormon Church ran their campaign through front groups, such as The National Organization for Marriage, flooding them with funding and volunteers, sending mailings and canvassers all over California. More information is available at <http://www.365gay.com/news/mormon-prop-8-documentary-opens-today/>

Partnered lesbians and gay men are more than twice as likely to be uninsured as married heterosexuals,” according to a new study of 100,000 Californians by Lambda Legal and the Department of Health Services at UCLA.

Professor Ninez A. Ponce, the principal UCLA co-author, said, “By not allowing lesbian and gay couples to marry, and not respecting their status when they are married, government invites the private sector to pass the costs of discrimination onto families and communities.” Uninsured partners may be dependent on public insurance options, shifting the cost of their insurance to taxpayers.

Same-Sex Marriage Undecided in California; Europe Rules against Forcing Nuptials

Attorney Charles Cooper, acting for supporters of California’s gay marriage ban, argued that Proposition 8 was constitutional because limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples ensures children have the benefits of being raised by biological parents. He further claimed “that the central purpose of marriage in all societies at virtually all times is to channel procreative relationships into stable relationships.”

Vaughn Walker, the presiding U.S. judge who will decide the case, asked a series of questions including whether similar arguments were used to prevent interracial marriage and why the government allowed the marriages of childless couples.

Theodore Olson, lawyer for those who opposed Prop 8, pointed out that “the right to marry, to choose to marry, has never been tied to procreation.” He added that Prop 8 supporters have not proved that allowing same-sex couples to wed would harm the institution of marriage. He claimed that opposition to Prop 8 needed a reason greater than “that’s the way it’s always been.”

The ban’s sponsors are also urging the judge to revoke state recognition of the marriages of 18,000 gay and lesbian couples who wed before voters passed Proposition 8. Andrew Pugno, an attorney for Prop. 8’s backers, said in an interview that the sponsors aren’t asking Walker to nullify the 18,000 marriages, but only to rule that government agencies, courts and businesses no longer have to recognize the couples as married.

Judge Walker will make a decision about the constitutionality of Proposition 8 later this year.

Meanwhile the European Court of Human Rights has ruled that countries are not obliged to allow gay marriage, rejecting a bid by an Austrian couple, Michael Schalk and Johann Franz Kopf, to force the state to let them wed. Austria permits same-sex domestic partnerships but not marriage. The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union includes a right to marry without a reference to men or women, which, according to the court, leaves the decision to the states whether or not to recognize same-sex marriages without obliging them to do so.

The court did make a significant step by recognizing that stable relationships of cohabiting same-sex couples fall within the notion of family life. The judges said there was “an emerging European consensus towards legal recognition of same-sex couples.” Of the 27 European states six permit marriage and another 12 allow domestic partnerships with rights equal to marriage.

People Who Make a Difference

Norrie May-Welby of Australia, is officially a neuter in Australia. Some people want to do away with gender terms; May-Welby has legally become a “genderless” person. May-Welby’s automobile license, instead of indicating “T,” states “neuter.” Sometimes gender is something people perform differently each day, each hour, moving from femaleness to male-ness and then something that takes pieces of both. May-Welby is out of the gender conversation altogether. [And it’s hard to write about Norrie without gender terms!]



Senators confirmed the judicial nomination of Marisa Demeo, an openly lesbian candidate, last April. The 66-32 Senate vote fell largely along partisan lines. Republicans opposed to Demeo blocked her confirmation to the D.C. Superior Court bench for over a year after her nomination by President Barack Obama. A letter from the socially conservative group Traditional Values Coalition urged senators to reject her. “As an open, radical lesbian, Demeo has openly condemned the effort to amend our Constitution to protect marriage as a one-man, one-woman union,” the group wrote. “Demeo supports gay marriage, claiming it is a constitutional right. She also claims that LGBT individuals can claim protection as minorities under our civil rights laws.”

Daniel Kowalski, 34-year-old winner of four medals in Atlanta’s 1996 Olympic Games, came out in April when he said he was “tired of living a lie” and hoped to inspire young gay people. In Atlanta, he was the first swimmer in 92 years to win medals in all of the freestyle events. “I felt really compelled to do it because it’s very tough to live a closeted existence. . . . I often wonder if the lack of self-confidence and lack of identity in many ways held me back from reaching my potential.” Kowalski urged other gay athletes to come out, saying, “There’ll be hard times but you surround yourself with great, supportive people who love you for you and you’ll be OK.”



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton equated the pursuit of LGBT rights to the pursuit of human rights as she celebrated Pride month last month with gay State Department employees. She recalled how as a first lady she marched in a Pride parade—something a first lady had never done before—and noted she co-sponsored a number of pro-LGBT bills in her previous role as a U.S. senator from New York, including hate crimes bill and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. The State Department’s annual Human Rights Report includes a section on the treatment of LGBT individuals in every country

Philadelphia Loses Latest Round With Local Boy Scouts Chapter

A federal jury has decided that Philadelphia violated the local Boy Scouts' First Amendment rights when the city evicted the group from city-owned offices because the group refuses to allow gays, atheists, and agnostics.

According to the unanimous verdict by a jury of six women and two men, the Cradle of Liberty chapter of the Boy Scouts may continue to meet on city property and do not need to pay any rent.

According to City Solicitor

Shelley Smith, the jury's answers to the 11 questions on the verdict sheet were "inconsistent," which provides the potential for a flawed verdict. "We will be exploring our options," Smith said.

About 360 school districts and 4,500 schools in ten states have terminated sponsorship of scout activities because of the scouts' stand on homosexuals, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

Huckabee Opposes Gay 'Ick' Marriage

Gay groups are criticizing former Presidential candidate and Arkansas GOP Gov. Mike Huckabee for saying in a June interview with *The New Yorker* that he does not support gay marriage, in part, because of the "ick factor."

Huckabee has a long history of controversial statements on gay marriage, comparing the practice to incest, polygamy, and drug use at an April speech at The College of New Jersey.

Gay Soldiers Denied Input in 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Controversy

Despite the military's leadership to ask soldiers about their viewpoint on allowing gays and lesbian to openly serve in the military, one group has been excluded. In protest, a group representing more than 250 gay and lesbian active-duty soldiers has issued a letter criticizing the months-long process the Pentagon is undertaking to examine the repeal of the policy. The letter, sent Monday to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, claims that lack of input "will result in failure to show that the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy has allowed the worst of atrocities to occur in our military and go unreported."

The problem for gay and lesbian service members is that as long as "don't ask, don't tell" is in effect, they can not openly discuss their experiences. Sen. Mark Udall (-CO) has said that he will read the letter and contact the Pentagon regarding the issue. "I will be on close watch to ensure that gay and lesbian service members currently serving in the military who participate and answer questions as part of Secretary Gates' review are able to speak openly and honestly about their experiences without fear of retaliation," Udall said.

The discussion about repealing the process has brought an objection from the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee who said he thinks the military should keep its ban on openly gay service members in part because he doesn't want to open a national discussion about homosexuality. Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO) said he thinks the debate in Congress over the proposed repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" law might force families to explain homosexuality to their children.

One question: Does the practice of asking soldiers how a policy may impact their "cohesiveness" open up other issues, such as the practice of sending soldiers for multiple tours into the Middle East? Can soldiers claim a lack of cohesiveness in this case?

Non-Celibate Gays Still Not Allowed to Donate Blood

A Health and Human Services committee 9-6 has voted to maintain the ban against blood donations from men who have had sex with other men since 1977. Representative Mike Quigley (D-IL), who led the effort to re-evaluate the blood ban, said of the decision, "By clinging to a 1980s view of the world, we are perpetuating a stereotype."

Notes from Jeanne:

The good news is that local PFLAG has tables at the Farmer's Markets in Newport and Lincoln City and are gathering Marriage Matters ad signatures there; and about a dozen PFLAG and LGBT Task Force members are gathering signatures on their own. Kate Daschel and her kids, Paul & Christina Wilhelmi, are staffing the LC table.

Clergy from friendly churches are meeting and working toward a common event in the fall.

The Second Annual PFLAG Family Picnic is scheduled for August 29 at the Big Creek Park in Newport (the same place as last year) from 12-4. Susan & David Huntington are the organizers.

PFLAG is helping sponsor the Sept. 17-19 Iris Pride Festival and will have a display table there.

LGBT Task Force does not meet in July.

At Safe Space—a Reconciling Retreat (9/24-26) gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons and their friends and families have a safe space to share their struggles and hopes in a faith community. There will be opportunities to find solidarity and empathy with people of diverse sexual orientations as well as outdoor fun and spiritual renewal. It is co-sponsored by Oregon-Idaho Camping and Retreat Ministries and Reconciling United Methodists.

On its e-book readers, Apple censored a gay kiss in Tom Bouden's graphic novel version of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, putting black boxes over two naked men in illustrations that showed no frontal nudity. After objections, Apple reversed the decision, allowing the original comic—minus the black boxes, calling the comic's reject a "mistake."

OCC PFLAG Calendar:

July 14, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting [Film: *Inlaws & Outlaws*] —St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

July 17: Newport Saturday Market

August 7: Capitol Pride, Salem

August 11, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

August 14: Newport Saturday Market; Eugene Pride

August 18, 12:00-1:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—LCHHS Building, 36 Nye St., Newport

August 26-29: Women in the Woods—Breitenbush Hot Springs (www.womeninthewoods.com) Sliding scale and scholarships available.

August 29: **PFLAG's Second Family Picnic!**

September 17-19: Iris Pride, Lincoln City

September 24-26: Safe Space, a Reconciling Retreat—Suttle Lake (<http://gocamping.org/camps-retreats/detail/safe-spaces-retreat>)

October 8-9: Southern Oregon Pride, Ashland

The Coastal AIDS Network* has the following monthly activities:

Second Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Movie Night," St. James Episcopal Church, 2490 NE Hwy 101, Lincoln City

Third Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Pizza Night," either Newport, Waldport, or Lincoln City

Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Men's Pot Luck and Game Night," St. James Episcopal Church, 2490 NE Hwy 101, Lincoln City

We also try to have pizza in Tillamook or Pacific City. For more information email Dan, coastalaid-network@gmail.com or leave a message for him at (541)994-5597.

*CAN activities are open to everyone, regardless of HIV status or sexual orientation. The only event limited to men is the potluck night, but occasionally we bend that rule for special events.

CLASS Women's Potlucks: Call Jeannette at 867-6993

Join PFLAG!

YES! I support the mission of PFLAG. Enclosed is my membership fee.*

_____ Individual or Household (\$30)
_____ Student/Limited Income (\$20)
_____ Contribution \$ _____

*Includes membership in National PFLAG with affiliates in over 365 worldwide communities.

Make check payable and mail to:

Oregon Central Coast PFLAG
PO Box 2172
Newport, OR 97365

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

PFLAG is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and has no political or religious affiliations.



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