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Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered 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.

Oregon Central Coast Chapter

September 2011

Take Action!

Maggie Conrad, organizer for this year's Iris Pride Festival during the weekend of Sept. 16-19, has asked for help in staffing some of the activities and booths, especially on Saturday, Sept. 17. The PFLAG booth will be open that day from 1:00-6:00 pm in the street fair area near Mo's on 51st St. in the Taft area of Lincoln City. Hopefully you'll attend Iris Pride and perhaps volunteer a few hours to help make this event another successful Pride experience for Lincoln City. Please contact Maggie Conrad, Special Events Coordinator, Lincoln City Visitor and Convention Bureau: (541)996-1273 ; maggiec@lincolncity.org

Iris Pride Festival Volunteer Opportunities

Saturday, September 17

VCB Booth/Raffle/T-Shirt: 12:45-3:30 and 3:30-6:00 pm

Alcohol Monitor: 1:00-6:00 pm

Survey Booth: 12:45-6:00 and 3:30 - 6:00 pm

Traffic Monitor: 9:00 am-12:00 pm; 12:00-3:30 and 3:30-7:00 pm

Sunday, September 18

Flamingo Bingo (age 18 and over): 11:00 am-2:00 pm

The Transgender Focus of the July and August PFLAG meetings has deepened our understanding of transgender individuals, the issues they face, and the stresses on their families. We are especially grateful to the Rev. David Weekley and his wife, Deborah, for their presentation at our August meeting. David's honesty, humor, and humility were touching and inspiring, and we appreciate having him as a new friend.

Reasons to Make Same-Sex Marriage Equal

The National Organization for Marriage (at least for some people) has been arguing since its inception that it needs to “protect” marriage from LGBT people who would remove its traditional value. Here are some arguing points against their approach .

NOM: "Gays and Lesbians have a right to live as they choose, but they don't have the right to redefine marriage for all of us."

Truth: Allowing gays and lesbians to marry does not "redefine marriage" for the entire country because they are not forcing heterosexuals to engage in gay marriage. Also (although off the topic of marriage) the LGBTs don't have the right to live as they choose, because of inequities in laws regarding employment, housing, etc.

NOM: “The people of this state who lose our right to define marriage as the union of husband and wife are harmed. That is just not right.”

Truth: Same-sex couples have rights. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 33 percent of female same-sex couple households and 22 percent of male same-sex couple households reported at least one child under eighteen living in their home, and that number has increased. Gary Gates, a demographer at the University of California, Los Angeles, reports that Black and Latino gay couples are twice as likely as whites to be raising children. What about the rights of these families?

NOM: “Religious groups like Catholic Charities or the Salvation Army may lose their tax exemptions or be denied the use of parks and other public facilities unless they endorse gay marriage.”

Truth: No religious group will be forced to endorse anything. Tax exemption controversies have to do with separation of church and state. Is it fair for Catholic Charities in Illinois to have the right to deny gays the right to adopt children they care for when these charities are receiving over \$30 million in tax dollars, some of the money from LGBTs?

NOM: “Public schools will teach young children that two men being intimate are just the same as a husband and wife, even when it comes to raising kids.”

Truth: The nonpartisan webpage Politifact found that this claim was inaccurate. In Massachusetts, where same-sex marriage is legal, same-sex intimacy is not in the curriculum.

NOM: “We should strengthen marriage because of the high rate of divorce.”

Truth: Stopping same-sex marriage won't stop divorce.

NOM: “Two men might each be a good father, but neither can be a mom. The ideal for children is the love of their own mom and dad. No same-sex couple can provide that.”

Truth: The ideal environment for raising a child is one that provides love and support. Multiple studies demonstrate that children in same-sex households are not harmed by this environment. Also there are many households where children are not with "their own" mom and dad; i.e. adoptive households.

Lots more at <http://holybulliesandheadlessmonsters.blogspot.com/2011/05/marriage-equality-simple-answers-to.html>

Politics on Our Side

The Federal District Court in Anchorage has permanently **barred enforcement of an Alaska statute criminalizing the online posting of sexual imagery that is “harmful to minors,”** stating that it threatened to reduce all speech on the internet “to only what is fit for children.” Chief U.S. District Judge Ralph Beistline held June 30 that Senate Bill 222, signed last year by Governor Sean Parnell, violates First Amendment rights of free speech. This law would surely have kept young people from seeing visual images of any LGBTQ people.

The U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld Chief U.S. District Judge Charles N. Clevert Jr.'s decision last year **striking down Wisconsin's 2005 Sex Change Prevention Act** after a nonjury trial, declaring the state's attempt to ban hormone therapy for transgender prison inmates unconstitutional. Wisconsin was the only state that banned this therapy.

President Obama has issued a proclamation **prohibiting anyone engaging in LGBT persecution overseas from entering the United States.** The proclamation bars entry of aliens who organize or participate in war crimes, perpetuate human rights abuses overseas, and “attempt or conspire to do so.” Those seeking to pass legislation in Uganda to institute the death penalty for homosexual acts may fit in these categories.

Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano has notified Congress that the approximately 300,000 **undocumented immigrants facing deportation will be evaluated in a case-by-case review** to determine which cases are high priority and low priority for separation from the country. This should bring hope to any gay and lesbian partners of these immigrants. Couples immediately affected by the new policy include

Alex Benshimol and Doug Gentry, who married last year in Connecticut; Anthony Makk and Bradford Wells; Raul Sinense and Peter Gee; Henry Velandia and Josh Vandiver; and Sujey and Violeta Pando (see p. 5)

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus has censured Liam Bruen, former commander of a fighter squadron at Oceana Naval Air Station for allowing homophobic call signs for new officers and retaliating against Ensign Steve Crowston for filing a formal complaint.

Americans For Truth About Homosexuality (AFTAH) has lost its tax-exempt status after a failure to file required tax forms with the state for three consecutive years. One year ago, the group was officially designated a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) because it spread discredited or slanderous propaganda about a group of people.

For the first time, **the Dutch military had its own boat at Amsterdam's annual Gay Pride parade,** with uniformed men and women saluting the crowds from a balloon-festooned barge bearing the standards of the service branches and sponsored by the Defense Ministry.

Australia's Finance Minister Penny Wong has announced she is expecting a child with her partner, Sophie Allouache. Only one state in the country, Tasmania, has legalized same-sex marriage.

Columbia's Constitutional Court has given the legislature until June 20, 2013 to create an equivalent for same-sex couples who want to get married. Without a decision, gay couples can formalize their union by going to any notary public or judge.

PFLAG, Immigration Information Response Team, Interfaith Community for Peace and Justice, and Peace Village co-sponsored a Welcoming Communities Potluck Dinner honoring Cindy Sheehan on August 22. About 75 community members heard presenters from each group describe the work they are doing to make Lincoln County truly welcoming and open to all.

The presentations were filmed and will be shared with other rural communities to spread the good word and good works. Thanks to everyone who works hard to make Lincoln County welcoming to all its residents.

Congressional delay in passing a federal budget and internal glitches at the agency responsible for awarding HIV/AIDS safety net funds **have held up funding for basic medical care and essential support for more than 500,000 people living with HIV/AIDS.**

The gay conservative group GOProud will not be co-sponsoring the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in 2012. The decision comes after GOProud's 2011 sponsorship sparked criticism from American Conservative Union board members and prompted several social conservative groups to boycott the event.

Republican Presidential Candidates, Their Take on Same-Sex Marriage

Jon Huntsman: Supports civil unions, which would extend marriage-like rights to same-sex couples.

Rick Santorum: Signed pledge denouncing same-sex marriage.

Newt Gingrich: Believes that President Obama should be impeached for not supporting the Defense of Marriage Act.

Ron Paul: Supports the right of states to legalize same-sex marriage but opposes any effort to require recognition of those unions on a national level.

Herman Cain: Believes being LGBT is a choice; supports "traditional marriage"; would reinstate Don't Ask, Don't Tell and veto the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Michele Bachmann: Signed pledge opposing same-sex marriage; supports amendment to U.S. Constitution to define marriage nationally as limited to one man/one woman; says she respects the rights of individual states to legalize same-sex marriage. [Bachmann is supporting the Minnesota initiative to ban same-sex marriage in the state; her husband owns a Christian counseling clinic that has tried to convert gay patients from homosexuality.]

Mitt Romney: Refused to sign pledge opposing same-sex marriage; favors limiting marriage to one man/one woman.

Rick Perry: Says that he respects the rights of individual states to legalize same-sex marriage; would support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would define marriage nationally as limited to heterosexual couples; signed pledge to denounce same-sex marriage.

Gay Republican Presidential Candidate Ignored by Fox News in Ames Straw Poll

Gay GOP presidential candidate Fred Karger says Fox News would not permit him to debate at the Iowa Straw Poll in Ames although he had met all of the network's conditions for qualifying. Karger has filed a complaint against Fox with the Federal Election Commission stating that the network's failure to abide by its "pre-established, objective criteria" for the debate resulted in "corporate in-kind donations to those eight participants."

People Who Make a Difference

A married lesbian couple, **Hege Dalen and Toril Hansen**, braved gunfire to save 40 children from white supremacist Anders Breivik's murder spree at a youth summer camp in Norway, making repeated trips to pick up frightened and wounded youngsters from the waters around Utoya Island. While the couple was camping opposite Utoya Island, they heard gunshots and screaming. Driving their boat to the island, they fished out frightened and injured youth. On the way back from their first trip, they saw the right side of their boat was riddled with bullets but they returned to the island three more times to rescue others. The couple was among several other campers who pulled 150 young people from the fjord.



Heather (left) with Rebecca Platter

Thanks to the efforts of **Heather Purser**, the Suquamish Tribe has become the country's second Native American tribe, after the Coquille Indian Tribe in Coos Bay (OR) to allow same-sex marriage. The new law allows the tribal court to issue a marriage license to two unmarried people "regardless of their sex" if they are at least 18 years old and at least one of them is an enrolled member of the Suquamish Tribe. Purser came out as a lesbian four years ago when she was a student at Western Washington University at the same time she began working to get the Suquamish law changed. "I wanted to feel accepted," she said. "The Suquamish Tribe has always been my home."



Sujey (right) and Violeta Pando can stay together, according to a Denver judge who stopped Sujey's deportation proceedings pending new guidelines from the Obama administration to focus deportations on criminals rather than on productive undocumented immigrants. Sujey came to the U.S. as a teenager after being abused in Mexico because she is a lesbian. The couple is legally married in Iowa, but the Defense of Marriage Act prohibits marriage-based visa applications for same-sex spouses.

We mourn the death of **Marcellus Richard Andrews** of Waterloo (IA). A 19-year-old college student studying interior design, he was kicked in the face after being beaten by a group of angry neighbors. Before the fight began, witnesses heard the killers using gay slurs such as "faggot" and "Mercedes," the feminization of his name. After two days in a coma with severe head injuries, Andrews was taken off life support. The local police have decided not to pursue hate crime charges against his attackers. No arrests have been made and no warrants have been sought.



Proposition 8 Goes Back to California Court; Case to be Televised on Public Affairs TV

Majority of Americans Support Gay Marriage

On September 6, the California Supreme Court will hear arguments on the original judicial decision regarding Proposition 8, that banning same-sex marriage is unconstitutional.

The state's refusal to back this appeal leaves the initiative sponsors, Protect Marriage, as the only party ap-

pealing the decision. Federal precedent bars this, but Protect Marriage hopes that state law will override federal standards.

After the arguments, the court will have 90 days to release a ruling. The case is to be televised on the California Channel, a public affairs network.

According to a new *Washington Post*-ABC poll, 51 percent of Americans say same-sex marriage should be legal, compared to only 36 percent five years ago. Adults under 30 accept legalized same-sex marriage by a 2 to 1 margin; Democrats support it by a 3 to 1 margin.

Conservative Iowa Organization Uses Federal Money to Fight Same-Sex Marriage

Part of the \$2.2 million in federal grant money awarded to the conservative Iowa Family Policy Center between 2006 and 2010 for marriage counseling was used to lead an anti-gay marriage campaign. The group also refused to serve same-sex couples with the money. Iowa legally recognizes same-sex marriage.

Last year the Family Policy Center supported the Republican candidate for governor who had promised to overturn the court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage. Now known as the Family Leader and a force in the current Republican presidential caucuses in Iowa, the group has turned down the \$550,000 grant.

Recently, the Family Leader asked Republican candidates to sign a pledge to be faithful to their spouses and denounce same-sex marriage rights and pornography. Michele Bachmann, Rick Perry, and Rick Santorum all signed the pledge.

The ACLU is looking into the group's actions for possible malfeasance.

Dolly Parton Apologizes to Lesbian Asked to Hide Shirt Message at Dollywood

After Olivier Odom complained about being asked to turn her shirt inside out at Dollywood, she received a letter of apology from Dolly Parton that read in part: "I am truly sorry for the hurt or embarrassment regarding the gay and lesbian t-shirt incident at Dollywood's Splash Country recently. Everyone knows of my personal support of the gay and lesbian community. Dollywood is a family park and all families are welcome." Odom's shirt had the words, "Marriage is so gay." She and her partner, Jennifer Tipton, had taken a friend's daughters to the family park.

Mormons Studying LGBT Experience within the Church

Nearly 1,000 Mormons are sharing their LGBT experiences with researchers at Utah State University for an online study of LGBT Mormons. The research is believed to be the first to focus specifically on the gay Mormon demographic, said Renee Galliher, a USU associate professor of psychology who is leading the study. "The broad goal is to provide a better description of how LGBT people function within the Mormon church," said Galliher, who is working alongside Brigham Young University emeritus biology professor Bill Bradshaw.

Mormonism teaches that any sexual relationship outside of traditional marriage is a sin, and in the past, the church preached that all homosexual feelings were a sin. Celibate gays may now retain full membership in the faith.

September 10 PFLAG Table Newport Farmer's Market

We will again be the featured non-profit at the Saturday Market in Newport. It's a great way to meet friends, drink good coffee, buy all your fresh produce and bakery goods, and support OCC PFLAG. Stop by and say hello—and take some Marriage Equality materials to share with friends.

September 14 PFLAG Meeting

The focus will be on the new Bully Prevention curriculum being introduced at Newport Intermediate and Isaac Newton Middle Schools. Majalise Tolan, the schools' principal, will be the guest speaker. The new program will be introduced to all families at Back to School Night on Sept. 15 with all staff participating in the interventions and support for students. This is real progress!

September 17 PFLAG Table Iris Pride Festival

OCC PFLAG will again have a table at the third annual Iris Pride Festival on 51st St. at the south end of Lincoln City in the open area near Mo's. We have requested really good weather to compensate for being rained out and blown away last year! Come to the street fair and stop at our table—we've got a whole new selection of rainbow dog scarves!

Welcoming Communities Display Newport Library

PFLAG is part of the August display in the entrance to Newport Library along with the Immigration Information Response Team, Interfaith Community for Peace and Justice, and Peace Village. Our bright yellow poster with 400+ signatures in support of Marriage Equality was on display all month!

OCC PFLAG Calendar

September 10: PFLAG Table at Saturday Market (Newport)

September 14, 7:00 pm: PFLAG—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport [LCSD Anti-Bullying Program]

September 16-18: Oregon Coast Iris Pride Festival 2011 (Lincoln City)

September 19, Noon: LGBT Task Force Meeting—Centro de Ayuda, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

September 20: The U.S. ban on gays and lesbians in the military is abolished.

September 24-October 1: Banned Books Week

September 30-October 2: Southern Oregon Pride Festival 2011 (Main Street, Ashland)

October 12, 7:00 pm: PFLAG—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

October 17, Noon: LGBT Task Force Meeting—Centro de Ayuda, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

The Coastal AIDS Network* monthly activities:

Second Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Activity Night" (call for information (541)994-5597)

Third Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Pizza Night" (Newport Abbey's Pizza)

Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Men's Pot Luck" (Locations vary! Call (541)994-5597 or email coastalaidnetwork@gmail.com for information)

We also try to have pizza in Tillamook or Pacific City. Email Dan, coastalaidnetwork@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: Jeannette at 867-6993.

Hope to see you at PFLAG meetings, Iris Pride, and Newport Farmer's Market! Being a visible presence of support for LGBT in Lincoln County is making a big difference! Keep up the good work!

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:

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