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Parents, Families and
Friends of Lesbians and
Gays promotes the
health and well- being
of gay, lesbian, bisex-
ual, 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 dis-
crimination and secure
equal civil rights.

Oregon Central Coast Chapter

May 2013

Take Action!

After Bayli Silberstein fought for over a year to get her middle school in Leesburg (FL) to form a Gay-Straight Alliance to address bullying at the school, she decided to take her fight to Washington, D.C. She and the ACLU are working to get Congress to pass the Student Non-Discrimination Act. <https://www.aclu.org/secure/stand-with-bayli>

“No parent should ever have to look their children in the eyes and tell them their family isn't good enough.” That's the reason that Jennifer Tyrrell is asking people to sign her petition asking the Boy Scouts to end its ban on LGBT adults participating in the organization. Tyrrell wrote that she wants “to continue Scouting with my son, Cruz.” <https://www.change.org/petitions/boy-scouts-of-america-vote-to-end-your-ban-on-both-gay-youth-and-adult-leaders>

Lucien Tessier, a 20-year-old Eagle Scout from Kensington (MD) also wants to know why he can't be a troop leader for his younger brother, Pascal. <https://www.change.org/petitions/boy-scouts-vote-to-end-your-anti-gay-policy-so-my-brother-can-earn-his-eagle-award>

Sens. Jeff Merkley and Sherrod Brown have joined the Scouts for Equality petitioning the Boy Scouts to permit LGBT scout leaders. <http://www.telltheboyscouts.com/merkley/>

Carla Hale was fired from her 19-year teaching job at Bishop Watterson Catholic High School (Columbus, OH) after her mother's obituary listed Hale's female partner. Her students launched a petition. <https://www.change.org/petitions/bishop-frederick-campbell-and-the-diocese-of-columbus->

**Oregon's Measure 36 "does not pass
constitutional muster."**

See p. 6

Boy Scouts to Vote on LGBT Membership

In an attempt to placate both its detractors and supporters, the Boy Scouts of America are submitting a proposal to the 1,400 voting members of the BSA's National Council that would admit gay and lesbian youth but exclude adult leaders who are either gay or lesbian. Self-identified gays and lesbians would then be forced to leave BSA at the age of 18 or 19. Dropping the ban still allows individual troops to discriminate. The vote comes on May 20 during BSA's annual meeting in Texas.

An alternative to BSA, the Navigators, is rapidly growing because it "welcomes all people." The organization originated from BSA Troop 103 in East Harlem, the first group started in a shelter serving homeless families. When the troop leader, Robin Bossert, decided that he couldn't change the BSA's discriminatory policy from within, Troop 103 became Navigator Chapter 1. Now 21 states have 45 chapters, a number growing at about two chapters per month.

Although BSA has a membership of about 2.6 million scouts, the number has dropped by approximately one-third since 1999.

Pro Sports Leagues Work on Acceptance of Openly Gay Athletes

Many people consider sports the last bastion of homophobia with professional athletes reluctant to come out of the closet until they retire. After consistent rumors that an athlete in one of the four professional sports leagues will declare himself as gay, Jason Collins, who played center for the Boston Celtics and Washington Wizards this season, has come out in a *Sports Illustrated* essay. Now leagues are examining ways to deal with gay athletes.

The National Hockey League formed a partnership with the You Can Play Project, a group fighting sports homophobia because many of their players are from Canada and northern Europe, more LGBT-friendly areas. Other leagues prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. The National Basketball Association has reminded teams that they cannot ask candidates questions about religion, race and sexual orientation.

The National Football League plans to monitor public reaction for any threats from fans. Advocacy groups are asking questions such as whether the NFL would order stadiums to stop focusing "kiss cams" on two men. NFL players have indicated that they were asked discriminatory, illegal questions about sexual orientation when they interviewed.

At a meeting with league officials and three organizations--Athlete Ally, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and You Can Play--gay Wade Davis, a former NFL player, recommended closed-door meetings with players where they can ask questions about having a gay teammate. He added that discussions about NFL players' religious beliefs related to their feelings about gay teammates.

Steve Tisch, co-owner of the Giants, and the Patriots' Robert K. Kraft both support marriage equality.

On the college/university level, UCLA football coach Jim Mora made a video for You Can Play welcoming openly gay players to his team. This video is the first to prominently feature a head football coach.

Wife of Anti-Marriage Equality Senator Promotes Same-Sex Marriage

Cindy Hensley McCain, wife of Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) and chair of the Hensley & Co. beer distribution company, plans to play a lesbian in "8," a play supporting marriage equality, this month in Phoenix. During her husband's 2008 presidential campaign, McCain supported Proposition 8, the California ballot measure that stopped same-sex marriage in the state. Prop 8 is now the subject of a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Politics on Our Side

Cincinnati: The City Council unanimously passed a motion requiring parades funded by the city to adhere to the city's anti-discrimination policies. The St. Patrick's Day Parade can no longer ban participation by an LGBT group.

San Diego: U.S. District Judge Consuelo Marshall has ruled that Philippines citizen Jane DeLeon and her spouse Irma Rodriguez have the standing to challenge DOMA because it violates the constitutional rights of immigrants in same-sex marriages. In addition, the judge determined that the lawsuit from the bi-national lesbian couple can proceed as a class-action case.

Delaware: The House has passed a bill to make this the 10th state legalizing marriage equality. It now moves to the Senate.

Hawaii: A state First Circuit Court judge has ruled that Aloha B&B violated the state accommodations law by denying Diane Cervelli and Taeko Bufford a room because they are lesbians.

Florida: School officials likely violated the First Amendment free-speech rights of a

student, U.S. District Judge John E. Steele ruled when she refused to dismiss a lawsuit from Amber Hatcher, who sued after the school would not allow participation in the annual Day of Silence to draw attention to anti-LGBTQ bullying and harassment.

Rhode Island: Republican senators have unanimously supported a proposed bill legalizing marriage equality in the state.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: After the General Magistrate of Justice published a provision authorizing same-sex marriage, Rio de Janeiro has become the 11th Brazilian state to authorize marriage equality.

France: The legislature has approved a bill legalizing gay marriage, making it the 14th country to create marriage equality.

New Zealand: The first country in the Asia-Pacific region to legalize marriage equality, it is also the 13th nation in the world to do so.

Uruguay: The Catholic Church couldn't keep this South American country from legalizing marriage equality.

States across Nation Slowly Erase Anti-Sodomy Law, a Decade Later

Sixteen years after the Montana Supreme Court struck down the state's anti-sodomy law and ten years after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled anti-sodomy laws unconstitutional in *Lawrence v. Texas*, the state legislature has removed its anti-sodomy law. Thirteen other states still keep anti-sodomy laws on their books, calling them "crimes against nature," although Texas is considering expunging it. Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas still have laws specifically outlawing sex between gay Americans, and ten other states outlaw anal or oral sex for everyone. Five years after SCOTUS made gay consensual sex legal, two men were arrested for the act in Raleigh (NC).

In Virginia, Kenneth Cuccinelli, state attorney general and GOP gubernatorial candidate, wants the anti-sodomy law to stay on the state's books. After a three-judge panel of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals overruled state laws barring consensual gay sex, the AG filed a petition to have the entire 15-judge court hear his case.

Some states move slowly to comply with Supreme Court rulings: Alabama kept its ban on interracial marriage until 2000—33 years after the decision against in *Loving v. Virginia*.

Marriage Equality Support

Over half the U.S. Senate has followed Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) in supporting marriage equality, most of them Democrats with three holdouts in that party.

In the House, only 18 of the 200 Democratic representatives have still not declared their position. One of them is Oregon's Kurt Schrader.

Legislators Try to Lower Judges' Salaries in Iowa

Four years ago, the Iowa Supreme Court declared that denying same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. Since that time, conservatives have managed to get rid of three of these judges but failed to vote the fourth justice off the bench.

Now five GOP lawmakers have filed an amendment to the state House's judicial branch budget which would cut the salaries of the remaining judges by nearly 85 percent from \$163,000 annually to \$25,000.

Iowa State Rep. Tom Shaw said that the amendment would give the judges the same salary as the lawmakers and "maintain the balance of power" between the three branches of government.

Reagans Would Support Marriage Equality

Patti Davis has said that her mother, First Lady Nancy Reagan, supports marriage equality.

Just a few weeks earlier she said that, based on their relationship with LGBT people, her father, President Ronald Reagan would have also backed same-sex marriage.

Polis Reintroduces LGBT Student Bill

Openly gay Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO) has reintroduced the Student Non-Discrimination Act to protect LGBT students in public schools from bullying and harassment. Modeled after Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, SNDA establishes LGBT students as a protected class and prohibits schools from discriminating against any student based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

Co-sponsors including Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) give the bill bipartisan support. She pointed out that federal law does not protect LGBT students from persecution based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

During the introductory conference call with reporters, Bayli Silberstein, a bisexual eighth grade student from Florida, talked about her school's opposition to her starting a GSA. Although the principal tried to block the club, students have the right to form GSAs under the Equal Access Act, a 1984 law that compels secondary schools to provide equal access to extracurricular clubs.

According to Ellen Kahn, director of the Human Rights Campaign Family Project, 64 percent of LGBT teens, compared to 47 percent of non-LGBT teens, never participate in afterschool activities out of fear of discrimination or bullying. She also said LGBT youth are twice as likely as their non-LGBT peers to experience bullying or harassment in school. She pointed out that adults as well as peers "engage in anti-LGBT behavior and discrimination as well," Kahn said.

Although passing the bill will be hard because of GOP opposition, Polis hopes that adding it to the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act will help. The exact timing for Senate introduction of SNDA is unknown. A Senate aide said Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) plans to introduce the bill in the upcoming weeks.

Another bill that would address anti-gay bullying is the Safe Schools Improvement Act, requiring schools to adopt codes of conduct against bullying, including on the basis of LGBT status, and report bullying data to Department of Education. President Obama endorsed both SNDA and SSIA last year.

We need to protect kids at school regardless of what adults think about the different ways that people live their lives. —Rep. Jared Polis

Polis and Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) are also reintroducing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Twenty-nine states currently permit job discrimination against LGBT people. The bill has been introduced in every session since 1994 except one.

People Who Make a Difference

During late-night speeches lasting over an hour on the Nevada Senate floor about marriage equality, Sen. **Kelvin Atkinson** publicly announced that he is gay. One Republican, Sen. Ben Kieckhefer, joined the Democrats to vote 12-9 to pass Senate Joint Resolution 13 that would eliminate the ban on same-sex marriage, replacing it with the mandate that the state recognize marriage equality. "If [same-sex marriage] hurts your marriage, then your marriage was in trouble in the first place," Atkinson said. Nevada voters approved a constitutional amendment in both 2000 and 2002 defining marriage as only between a man and a woman. If SJR 13 passes, the legislature would have to approve it again in 2015 before it would go on the 2016 ballot.



Former Rep. **Jim Kolbe** (R-AZ), (left) who represented the state from 1985 to 2007, testified before a Senate Judiciary Committee in favor of adding support for bi-national same-gender couples in the proposed immigration reform bill. Kolbe has been with his partner, Panama native Hector Alfonso, for eight years. Alfonso came to the U.S. on a Fulbright scholarship and then taught for 20 years. The couple lived apart for a year when Alfonso was forced to return to his native country. The couple will be legally married in Washington, D.C. on May 18, 2013. Kolbe was outed after he voted in favor of DOMA, banning marriage equality.

Rory Teal (left) and **Brenna Pelland**, both 17, have been stopped for the past six months from forming a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) club at Kathleen High School in Lakeland (FL). In mid-April, the ACLU sent a letter calling on the district to allow them to establish a GSA at Kathleen High School. Administrators had told the students that a long list of club applicants being filed had caused the delay. The ACLU public records request found that two requests had been filed in the past 10 months.



Role Models for LGBTQ Youth—and the Rest of Us Too!

We Happy Trans and **This Is How** have issued the inaugural Trans 100 list, featuring transgender individuals working to break down stereotypes of the community. One of the 100 is TransActive's founder Jenn Burleton (right). <http://wehappytrans.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Trans100-Final.pdf>



Advocate announces "40 Under 40," LGBT leaders in politics, sports, science, religion, and the arts. <http://www.advocate.com/print-issue/current-issue/2013/04/17/40-under-40?page=0,0>

Out's top 50 begins with Apple CEO Tim Cook. <http://www.out.com/2013/04/10/whos-top-power-list-2013#slide-1>

Boston First Responder Gay, Married



Boston Globe photographer John Tlumacki captured the above photo immediately following the bombs' explosions at the Boston marathon last month as police officers ran to the aid of those in the street, including the 78-year-old runner on the ground. The Latino on the right is Javier Pagan, the Boston Police Department's LGBT liaison. His husband of four years is Pedro, a retired NYPD sergeant, who helped rescue many people after the World Trade Center explosions on 9/11/01.

A tweet joked that maybe Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito can explain to the officer why he shouldn't be married because same-sex marriage is younger than cell phones.

The photo ran on the April 15, 2013, edition of *Sports Illustrated*.



9th Circuit Court Judge Rules for Oregon Marriage Equality

Judge Harry Pregerson of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that Portland couple Alison "Tex" Clark (right) and Anna Campbell, who married last year in Vancouver (BC), should participate in federal health care benefits. Clark works for the Office of the Federal Public Defender and asked that Campbell be allowed her spousal rights to health care. After the employer denied Clark's request, she took it to court.

The judge also determined that Oregon's Measure 36, denying marriage equality, "does not pass constitutional muster."



Photo: Stephanie Hull, Centric Photography

Q Doc film Festival

Q Doc, the only festival in the United States and only the second in the world devoted to queer documentaries, is at McMenamins Kennedy School, 5736 NE 33rd Ave, Portland, on May 17-19. More information at <http://queerdocfest.org/>

A Reading of "8" the Play

A staged reading of "8," a documentary play by Dustin Lance Black about the federal case for marriage equality, will be followed by a Q & A with marriage equality advocates to learn more about the fight for equality in Oregon. The performance is June 6-8, 7:30 pm, and June 9, 2:00 pm, at the Artists Repertory Theater, 1515 SW Morrison St., Portland. Tickets are \$10.

Bites for Rights 2013

On June 20th, 2013, restaurants, coffee shops, bars and bakeries around the state will donate a generous percentage of their day's proceeds to Basic Rights Oregon. On this one day, you can feast to promote fairness for all LGBT Oregonians. More information at <http://www.basicrights.org/event/bites-for-rights-2/>

More Basic Rights Oregon Events

at <http://www.basicrights.org/events/2013-05>

July 1, 2013, is the application deadline for a \$1,000 student scholarship from Portland Latino Gay Price and the Equity Foundation. The preference will be placed on Oregon Latino candidates who are LGBT or the children of LGBT parents. Other scholarships are also available at www.equityfoundation.org/scholarships

OCC PFLAG Calendar

Monday, May 6, 3:30 - 6:30 pm: BBQ Fundraiser for Pink Prom (for LGBTQ-&-friends high school students) and UO TeachOut Conference—South Eugene High School Parking Lot

May 8, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting, (Short film on bullying followed by discussion)—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

May 11: Table at Newport Saturday Market

May 19, 11:00 am-Noonish: Just the Girls Coffee Hour—Green Salmon, Yachats

June 4, 9:00 am: OUT Lesbian Coffee—Coffee House, Newport Bayfront

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

June 18, 9:00 am: OUT on the Oregon Coast for Lesbians--Green Salmon, Yachats

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 coastalaidsnetwork@gmail.com for information)

We also try to have pizza in Tillamook or Pacific City. Email Dan, coastalaidsnetwork@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 except for "Men's Pot Luck." Occasionally we bend that rule for special events.

Social LGBT Oregon Coast Group:

www.outoregoncoast.com

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Out-Oregon-Coast/194768480642314>

PFLAG and the welcoming congregations of Lincoln County have a table at the Saturday summer Farmers Market in Newport once per month from May through October. Our first date this season for our Farmers Market table will be Saturday, May 11. **We need volunteers** to be at the table for two hour shifts. We have some volunteers for May 11, but we could use additional volunteers. Contact Brent at brent.burford@gmail.com.

Join PFLAG!

YES! I support the mission of PFLAG. Enclosed is my annual 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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