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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 en-
lighten an ill-informed
public

ADVOCACY to end dis-
crimination and secure
equal civil rights.

Oregon Central Coast Chapter

September 2013

Take Action!

Tell the FDA to stop the ban on blood donations from gay men: <http://www.credomobilize.com/petitions/tell-the-fda-end-the-ban-on-blood-donations-from-gay-men?akid=8716.1033482.jxpeU9&rd=1&t=4>

Tell major Olympic Sponsor Visa to speak out against Russia's anti-LGBT laws (p. 4): http://act.couragecampaign.org/sign/russian-olympics-visa/?akid=434.224704.f39zO_&rd=1&t=1

Petition Miss Universe to move its pageant from Moscow because of Russia's anti-gay law (p. 4): <http://www.change.org/petitions/miss-universe-org-move-your-2013-pageant-from-russia-because-of-anti-gay-laws>

Tell the IOC to move the Olympics out of Russia (p. 4): http://act.credoaction.com/sign/move_olympics/?akid=8648.1033482.-ATnWF&rd=1&t=1

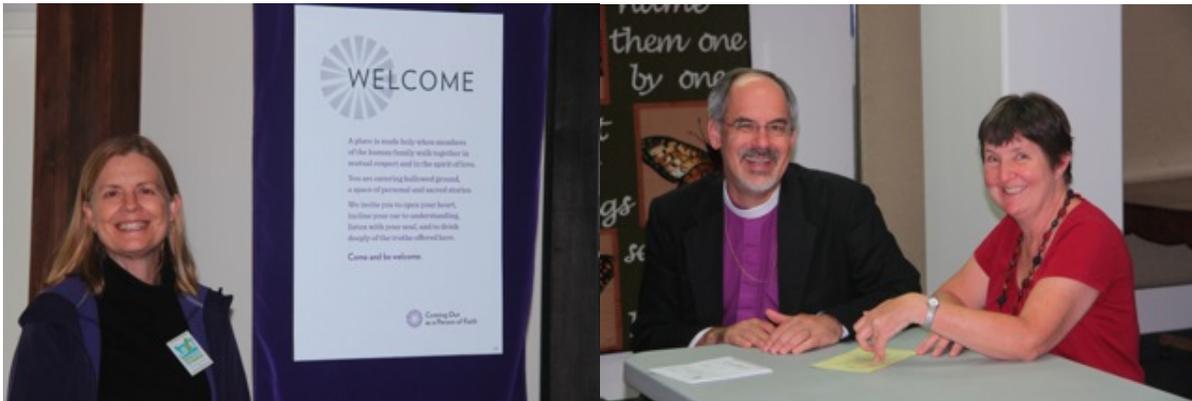
Lincoln County Rocks Freedom to Marry Petitions

Lincoln County's 30+ volunteer petition circulators gathered over 1000 signatures in the first 10 days of the campaign! The statewide immediate goal was to collect 10,000 signatures in 10 days—PFLAG Oregon Central Coast made a significant contribution to that effort. At the state level the 10,000 signature goal was reached in only THREE days and now stands at over 60,000 of the 116,000 needed to place the measure on the November 2014 ballot.

Nancy Mead (North Lincoln County), Ineka Estabrook and Jeanne St.John (Mid County), and Mary McCusker (South County) served as Petition Captains and trained volunteers to gather VALID signatures.

Watch for more Freedom to Marry events in Lincoln County!

Waldport, Newport Coming Out Events



Caroline Spark, Facilitator

Lutheran Bishop Dave & Gretchen Brauer-Riecke



PFLAG Co-Chairs, Jeanne and Brent

From left, Rev. Aubrey Thonvold, Faith Director for Marriage Campaign; Patti Littlehales; & John Baker

Coming Out as People of Faith (COPF) in Lincoln County

Coming Out as a Person of Faith is a multi-media project revealing the experiences, stories, and perspectives of clergy, parents of gays and lesbians, and LGBT couples of faith who support the Freedom to Marry. The intention is to share with church communities how persons from a wide spectrum of faith traditions support the Freedom to Marry and how their faith informs their support of this issue. In August this exhibit and discussion was held in three churches and one library (Florence) along the coast. A follow-up discussion will be held at St. Luke's in Waldport at 2 pm on Sun., Sept. 8.

Trained facilitators led the discussions among church members and friends from the communities around Lincoln City (Congregational), Waldport (Episcopal) and Newport (Lutheran). Those with LGBT family members shared their family's experiences and growth in understanding about marriage for gays. Bishop Dave and Gretchen Brauer-Riecke facilitated the discussion at Atonement Lutheran Church in Newport. Newport News-Times published a Viewpoint by Bishop Dave in support of Freedom to Marry.

PFLAG partnered with Basic Rights Oregon and Welcoming Churches to host these events.

Politics on Our Side

Alabama: A judge has ruled that a lesbian mother can have unrestricted visitation rights to her children

California: Gov. Jerry Brown has signed the first U.S. legislation guaranteeing rights for transgender students, requiring K-12 public schools to provide equal access to all sports teams, activities, and facilities to students who identify as transgender.

Iowa: The state Ethics & Campaign Disclosure Board voted unanimously to investigate the National Organization for Marriage for its participation in ousting four justices who ruled that a state law against same-sex marriage was unconstitutional. The court decision was unanimous, and NOM had planned to try to oust more of the justices.

Kentucky: Comedian Stephen Colbert has featured openly gay Johnny Cummings, mayor of tiny Vicco. It's well worth watching! <http://www.colbertnation.com/the-colbert-report-videos/428601/august-14-2013/people-who-are-destroying-america---johnny-cummings>

Massachusetts: Scott Lively will be tried for crimes against humanity because of his persecution of people on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. He was instrumental in developing the Ugandan "kill the gays" law and toured Russia, fomenting LGBT hatred. Two decades ago, Lively was part of the leadership for the anti-LGBT organization, Oregon Citizens.

New Jersey: Gov. Chris Christie signed legislation to ban licensed therapists from attempting to convert gay youths into heterosexuals.

New Mexico: The state Supreme Court unanimously ruled that a wedding photographer who

refused to serve a same-sex couple violated state laws that forbid discrimination based on sexual orientation.

New Mexico: When State District Judge Alan Malott ruled marriage equality legal in the most populated county in the state, he also declared that banning same-sex marriage is against the state's constitution. As of August 30, six counties are issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples which state AG Gary King will not stop. This state is the only one in the U.S. that has no laws regarding marriage equality.

United States: Same-sex spouses of military members are now eligible for the same health care, retirement, and housing benefits as opposite-sex couples. Unmarried lesbians and gays are also allowed ten days of paid leave to travel to a state with legalized marriage equality.

United States: On the 50th anniversary of awarding Medals of Honor, President Obama honored 16 people including astronaut Sally Ride, a lesbian, and Bayard Rustin, an openly gay activist notable for organizing the March on Washington commemorating its 50th anniversary on August 28.

Canada: LGBT Russians seeking persecution from Russia's anti-LGBT law may now seek asylum in Canada.

Germany: The first European country to offer a "third gender" distinction on birth certificates will no longer label people born of indeterminate gender as male or female.

New Zealand: Tash Vitali and Mel Ray were among the first same-sex couples to be legally married on August 19 when the country joined 1 other countries and sub-national jurisdictions in other countries to legalize marriage equality.

IRS Recognizes All Married Same-Sex Couples in All States

The US Treasury Department announced that legal marriages of same-sex couples will be recognized for all federal tax purposes, including filing, exemptions, dependents, and employee benefits. The ruling applies to couples married in any state, the District of Columbia, or any foreign country that recognizes marriage equality. Couples also have the option to file amended returns for the past three tax years.

PFLAG Family Picnic A Great Success!

Our fifth annual PFLAG Family Picnic was a great opportunity to share food and fun with PFLAG and Welcoming Church members. For once we didn't need wind or rain gear—it was a warm, sunny day and about 30 folks enjoyed fabulous food—and fabulous new and old friends! Newport High Gay/Straight Alliance students handled the nametags and had fun in the sun!

Corporations Support Marriage Equality

Republican political consultants and two large corporations headquartered in Indiana helped form a coalition to fight a proposed state constitutional ban on marriage equality.

"Putting this language in our state's most important document would create a barrier to recruiting ... talent," said Rob Smith, senior director for corporate responsibility for Eli Lilly and Co.

Still Time to Register For Leadership Conference

Registration is still open by LGBT Leaders 2013 in Denver (CO) on December 5-8. Hundreds of openly LGBT leaders in government, politics, advocacy, business and community organizations will receive training in skills building, networking, and discussion of key issues facing out leaders and their communities. <http://www.lgbtleaders.org/>

Backlash from Russia's Anti-LGBT Law

Are LGBT people and their allies who travel to Russia to attend such events as the Olympics, sports competitions, and film festivals safe? After the draconian anti-LGBT law passed in June, allowing anyone to be beaten and imprisoned with impunity, officials, both in Russia and from the International Olympic Committee, have issued contradictory comments about safety.

The most recent is from Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Kozak who promised that LGBT athletes and spectators will be safe at the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi, Russia. His "assurance," however, included the statement that the law applies "equally to all persons ... and cannot be regarded as discrimination." It appears that he is saying that anyone can be beaten, not just LGBT people. <http://nelsnewday.wordpress.com/2013/08/15/olympic-s-endanger-lgbt-athletes-tourists/>

People around the world have protested the law, including those in Sweden who repainted the crosswalk in front of the Russian embassy in rainbow colors.



Actor Wentworth Miller, of *Prison Break* declared himself a gay man when he declined participation in the St. Petersburg (Russia) International Film Festival.



Russia can't even go to the dogs. The world Dog Show is considered withdrawing its 2016 from Russia after the American Kennel Club said it would boycott the event over Russia's treatment of LGBT people.

News: Russia Protest, BSA, OED, Etc.



Los Angeles City Councilmembers Mike Bonin, Mitch O'Farrell, and Tom LaBonge are protesting Russia's anti-LGBT law by hanging a small rainbow flag under the name of its sister city, St. Petersburg, near the City Hall.

The Boy Scouts of America not only wants to exclude LGBT leaders but also claims that the organization owns the word "scout." Last year, people in Oakland (CA) started Hacker Scouts so kids from 8 to 12 could learn to build circuit boards, make DIY ice cream, laser cut picture frames, and do other fun projects in science, technology, and engineering. The project grew with groups across the country, but the BSA has told Hacker Scouts that the BSA has exclusive rights to the term "scout."

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The leading authority on the English language, the Oxford English Dictionary, has changed the definition of "marriage" to include same-sex couples after England legalized marriage equality.

Ellen DeGeneres will be hosting the Oscars again on March 2. Her first stint was seven years earlier in 2007.

Take Action

Ten years ago, the Supreme Court made a ruling that sodomy is no longer illegal. Louisiana never took its anti-sodomy laws off the books, and Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office arrested twelve gay men having private, consensual sex. Stop the sheriff's office from harassing the LGBT community. <http://forcechange.com/70915/stop-enforcing-unconstitutional-sodomy-laws/>



Although Ex-Gay Pride Month organizer Christopher Doyle expected the kick-off lobby day to have thousands of people in attendance, the photo (left) shows that it wasn't that successful. The Ex-Gay Pride banquet at the Family Research Council was also canceled. Voice of the Voiceless and Equality and Justice for All have declared September "Ex-Gay Awareness Month." The groups plans an event on September 29.

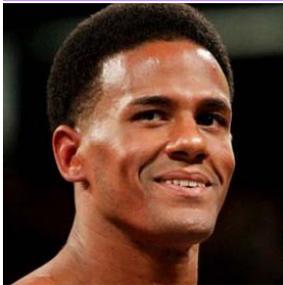
Marriage Equality for Some

After the Supreme Court ruled that legally married same-sex couples would have federal benefits, the major question was how the federal government would determine "legally married." The Social Security Administration is now paying retirement benefits to some spouses in same-sex marriages.

Those benefits will not be provided for those who wed in one of the 13 states or other jurisdictions with legalized marriage equality but live in a place that does not recognize same-sex marriage. SSA will use a same-sex couple's "state of domicile," not a "state of ceremony," in qualifying for Social Security.

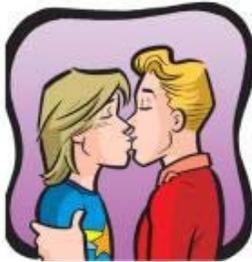
The Justice Department is currently reviewing this rule, searching for a way to change the policy that does not ask Congress to change the law.

People Who Make a Difference



Journalists don't always know the answer when they ask a question. When a TMZ cameraman asked wrestling super star **Darren Young** if WWE would tolerate openly gay wrestlers, Young came out of the closet. "Absolutely. Look at me," Young said. "I'm a WWE Superstar and to be honest with you, I'll tell you right now I'm gay and I'm happy. Very happy."

John Berry (left), confirmed by a voice vote to become U.S. Ambassador to Australia, has married his partner of 17 years, **Curtis Yee**. Berry has become the first openly gay ambassador to a G-20 nation and joins four other openly gay U.S. ambassadors, including the ambassador to neighboring New Zealand and Samoa, Spain ambassador James Costos, and Denmark ambassador Rufus Gifford.



Kevin Keller, Archie Comics' first gay character, is now dating **Devon**, a young man who ran away from home because of his father's reaction to Devon's being gay. Now Archie Comics has shown its first gay kiss. Thanks to writer and artist Dan Parent as well as Archie Comics Publications for their current approach toward culture.

When **Ron McCoy** and **Chris Bowers** flew from Portland (OR) to Albuquerque (NM) to participate in the city's LGBT Pride Fest, a bus driver shuttling them to their destination told them to get in the back of his bus. A spokesperson for Standard Parking, that operates the shuttle, said that he didn't consider this to be discrimination. The couple is considering action.



Julian Marsh (right), a Florida resident, and his husband **Traian Popov**, from Bulgaria, were the first same-sex married couple to be approved for a permanent resident visa after the Supreme Court ruled that a ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. The notice of the visa, known as a green card, was emailed to Popov two days after the court announced its decision because Janet Napolitano had ordered the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to immediately review immigration visa petitions filed on behalf of same-sex couples.

PFLAG Comes to Lincoln City

PFLAG meetings and events are now scheduled in the north end of Lincoln County. Church leaders at St. James Episcopal Church invited PFLAG to hold regular meetings and events at their church.

The initial meeting on August 7 drew LGBT leaders in north Lincoln County who were eager to help establish this new group. They provided input about possible meeting topics, events, and activities and were engaged in the COPF event at the Congregational Church on August 4.

Students from Taft High's Gay/Straight Alliance attended the first meeting and promised to be active participants during the school year.

Don't miss the next Lincoln City PFLAG meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 6:00 pm at St. James when the topic will be "LGBT 101."

LGBT 101 at NOW Meeting On September 16

PFLAG's innovative LGBT 101 workshop and panel will be the meeting topic at the Sept. 16 meeting of NOW (National Organization for Women) at the Newport PUD Meeting Room at 6:00 pm.

PFLAG & Welcoming Churches at Oregon Coast Pride

Church members from Lincoln City, Newport, Toledo, and Waldport will join PFLAG members from around the county to staff a shared booth at the Oregon Coast Pride Festival at Chinook Winds on Sept. 7 and 8. Drop by our booth to chat, sign the Freedom to Marry petition, or pick up materials to share. We will have PFLAG and Oregon United for Marriage T-shirts available!

OCC PFLAG Calendar

September 4, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG in Lincoln City, St. James Episcopal Church, 2490 NE Highway 101, Lincoln City (LGBT 101 Workshop; planning for Oregon Coast Pride)

September 6-8: Oregon Coast Pride—Chinook Winds Casino, Lincoln City (www.oregoncoastpride.com)

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

September 14: Table at Newport Saturday Market

Sept. 15 2:00-4:00 pm: COPF Follow-up Discussion—St. Luke's, Waldport

September 20, 2:00 pm: LGBT Seniors: Legal and Financial Info, Campbell Community Center, 155 High Street, Eugene

September 29: 11:00 am-Noonish: Just the Girls Coffee Hour—Café Mundo, NW 3rd and Coast Streets, Newport

October 2, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG in Lincoln City, St. James Episcopal Church, 2490 NE Highway 101, Lincoln City

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

October 12: Table at Newport Saturday Market

October 30: 11:00 am-Noonish: Just the Girls Coffee Hour—Café Mundo, NW 3rd and Coast Streets, 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 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:
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Out-Oregon-Coast/194768480642314>

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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