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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

September 2014

Oregon Supports Transgender Health Care

Oregon will give a full range of state medical coverage to low-income transgender people starting early next year. The decision means that people seeking treatment for gender dysphoria—a condition in which people don't not feel that their gender identity conforms with their birth gender—can now receive treatment under the Oregon Health Plan. Last year the plan added some services such as psychotherapy, medical visits, and medications to suppress puberty in gender-questioning youth. Key new additions to the coverage include cross-sex hormone therapy and gender reassignment surgery. The annual cost to the state will be less than \$150,000. Reasons for adding the new treatments include reducing depression, anxiety, risky behavior, and rates of suicide and attempted suicides.

The Affordable Care Act benefits transgender people in two ways: insurance companies cannot deny health care on the basis of pre-existing conditions, and insurance companies cannot discriminate against transgender people. Although the guideline for transgender treatment has not yet been written, it will state that all patients must be treated the same. For example, insurance plans covering hormones for post-menopausal women must also cover this medication for transgender women.

9th Circuit Court Turns Down NOM's Appeal

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has just denied standing for the National Organization for Marriage's (NOM) appeal to stop marriage equality in Oregon. NOM can still file a further appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, but there is little likelihood that they will succeed because SCOTUS had already denied NOM's motion to stay federal judge's decision to allow same-sex marriage in the state. Background on the case and information about how to marry a same-sex partner in Oregon is here: <http://www.oregonunitedformarriage.org/decisionday/>

PFLAG Chapter Activities, Achievements

PFLAG OCC Receives Grants

Equity Foundation and the Books Fund of Equity Foundation has granted the local PFLAG chapter \$1900 to support activities for LGBTQ students on the Oregon Coast. These include a lunchtime teen support group, trips to conferences, and grants for Gay Straight Alliance clubs. www.occflag.org

The Levi Strauss grant of \$1000 will support HIV/AIDS prevention beginning with the Oregon Central Coast Pride event in Lincoln City on Saturday, September 6. Watch for PFLAG at the Liberty Inn, 4990 Logan Road (just beyond the Casino) for its table near the AIDS Quilt.

Bully Basics Presented to School Based Health Center Staff

Jeanne St. John presented the Bully Basics workshop to the Lincoln County Health & Human Services School Based Health Center staff at its Back-To-School Inservice. Based on the Olweus Bully Prevention Model, the workshop introduces types of bullying, reasons for bullying, the Bully Circle model, and the outcomes of bullying on the target, the bully, and those who observe.

St. John also introduced the SBHC staff to the ACEs (Adverse Childhood Events) research demonstrating the long-term effects of 10 different adverse events on one's physical and mental health. The ACEs work originated with a 1998 CDC study and is being used around the US in schools and public health settings.

PFLAG Family Picnic

PFLAG's Family Picnic was at the park near the Yaquina Bay Bridge where we shared great food with great PFLAG-friendly people. We're looking for a new picnic site for next year with less wind—let us know if you have a suggestion!

Supreme Court Justice Says Marriage Equality Will Go to High Court

The Supreme Court won't duck the issue of same-sex marriage the next time a case comes to the court, according to Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. In an interview with *The Associated Press*, Ginsburg said she expects SCOTUS to hear and decide a marriage equality case by June 2016 if not this coming year. She predicts that the Supreme Court will not hold off on a ruling as it did regarding interracial bans in all the states, which were struck down less than 50 years ago.

Her position took a turn after she expressed caution about the court being too far ahead of the country, her comment about legalizing abortion.

Appointed by President Bill Clinton, the 81-year-old has served on the court since 1993 and shows no indication of retirement. "Right now, I don't see any sign that I'm less able to do the job."

Ginsburg is only three years older than Reagan appointees Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy.



Politics on Our Side

New Jersey: A lesbian stepmother has gained the right to seek visitation or custody, according to a ruling from a New Jersey appellate court. Earlier she had sought these rights but lost in trial court. The appeals court overturned that decision, ruling that it would be in the child's best interest for his stepmother to continue being in contact with him. The court used the doctrine of a "psychological parent," any guardian who lives with and cares for a child for a significant amount of time and develops a parent-child bond with them.

Wisconsin: The state Supreme Court has upheld the state's domestic partnership registry as constitutional.

United States: While six federal appeals courts are in the midst of the marriage equality controversy, a seventh one, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit is looking at gaps in same-sex couples' eligibility for veterans' benefits from home loan guarantees to burial rights. Unlike other federal agencies, VA policies give benefits to same-sex couples if they either live in a state that accepts the legality of their marriage or are living in such a state when they apply for benefits. Married same-sex couples will therefore have benefits only if they live in one of 19 states or Washington, D.C. where marriage equality is recognized.

United States: The U.S. Department of Labor on Tuesday has clarified that sex discrimination includes gender identity and transgender status of individuals who work for federal contractors and subcontractors. This explanation follows Labor Secretary Thomas Perez's announcement that the department is updating enforcement protocols and anti-discrimination guidance to clarify that full protection of federal non-discrimination laws enforced by the Labor

Department extends to transgender individuals. This guidance is consistent with the 2012 decision in *Macy v. Holder*, in which the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) determined that discrimination based on an individual's gender identity is sex discrimination and constitutes a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1974.

Ecuador: The country will soon give same-sex couples "the full constitutional right" to register civil unions and adopt children, according to President Rafael Correa.

Luxembourg: Since this tiny nation legalized marriage equality, conservative-leaning prime minister, Xavier Bettel, may take advantage of the new law to marry his partner, architect Gauthier Destenay.

Uganda: The country's Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Act has been declared unconstitutional by the country's Constitutional Court because it was passed without a quorum contrary to parliamentary procedures. The Penal Code, however, continues to criminalize "unnatural offences," and an appeal to overturning the Act can go to the country's Supreme Court. Same-sex marriage in Uganda is illegal, and performing a marriage ceremony for a same-sex couple is a criminal offense.

United Kingdom: Queen Elizabeth II has officially granted a royal pardon to computer scientist Alan Turing, who committed suicide in 1954 following a conviction over a relationship with another man. Turing, who may have saved the UK from the Germans in World War II by breaking the Nazi Enigma code, was convicted of "gross indecency" in 1952 at a time when consensual sex between same-sex partners was considered a crime under British law. Part of his conviction required chemical castration.

New App for LGBTs

Indiegogo has created a new social media app, a virtual center, for the LGBTQ community.

One+Love aggregates news, articles, fashion trends, webisodes, and original content as well as organizations, local events, online communities, and other resources that cater to smaller, more niche identity groups within the vast queer spectrum.

The One+Love profile slider allows users to indicate their interests so that they will only receive relevant content.

More information here:
<http://www.onepluslove.com/>

Lively Runs for MA Governor

One of the people behind the anti-LGBT ballot measure in 1992 is planning to run for governor in Massachusetts. Scott Lively has also been instrumental in anti-LGBT laws in Russia and Uganda. More information here: <http://nellsnew-day.wordpress.com/2014/08/27/lively-runs-for-massachusetts-governor/>

Let's Support Target!

Anti-LGBT groups are calling for nationwide boycotts of the major retail chain because it has signed onto a legal brief supporting marriage equality to the 7th Circuit Court regarding same-sex marriage in Indiana and Wisconsin.

The boycott comes from organizations describing boycotts against anti-LGBT companies such as Chick-fil-A with the term "economic terrorism."

PFLAG Honors Hero Linda Orange

PFLAG will honor its Hero Linda Orange at the September 10 meeting. Orange has volunteered to meet with LGBT Teens weekly for the last seven years! A program that started in 2007 while Linda was working as a Mental Health therapist for LCHHS and with psychiatrist Dr. Tom DeBlois, has continued because of her dedication to the well-being of LGBT teens. She has stayed with "her kids" through thick and thin, changes of staffing in LCHHS and LCSD, her own retirement from LCHHS, and the establishment of Newport High's School Based Health Center.

Most recently the LGBT Teen Lunch Bunch has met weekly in the new SBHC meeting room where they share dreams, challenges, sorrows and support along with large quantities of pizza. Orange's compassion, caring, and competence have guided dozens of young LGBT students through the tough passages of their high school years.

Orange is seriously retiring, planning to spend much of the winter in Arizona with her wife, Ardie, where they will play golf and enjoy time together in the sun. They plan to keep their home here where she will continue a part-time practice between her long walks on the beach.

Words cannot express the gratitude we feel for Linda Orange and her service to LGBT teens for all these years. We pledge that the group will go on and that kids will have a place to come for support and encouragement. PFLAG will continue to support the weekly support group by providing the pizza through grant funding, and being an active part of the adult staffing. School Based Health Center staff and PFLAG volunteers will lead the support group during the coming school year.



Marriage Equality Continues across the U.S. Judicial System

Lambda Legal has now asked a federal court to compel the state of **Arizona** to immediately recognize the marriage of George Martinez and Fred McQuire (left), a gay couple from Green Valley who have been together for 45 years and were married last month in California after George was diagnosed with Stage IV pancreatic cancer that has metastasized to his liver. He has only a few months to live.



Both men are veterans, but Arizona's marriage ban prevents George from accessing the increased veterans' disability compensation to which disabled veterans with spouses are usually entitled. Furthermore, when Martinez dies, the state will refuse to issue a death certificate to McQuire as Martinez's surviving husband, which will interfere with McQuire's ability to take care of George's affairs after his death and to access survivor's benefits generally available to a surviving spouse. Other plaintiffs include Nelda Majors, 75, and Karen Bailey, 74, of Scottsdale, who have been together for 56 years.

Arizona did rule that a transgender man can divorce his wife, meaning the state had to recognize the transgender man as a male. Last year he was refused a divorce because a state judge invalidated his gender identity and refused to divorce a same-sex couple. The man had retained his female reproductive organs and had a child but transitioned to life as a male, using his new gender on his legal documents. A three-judge panel of the Arizona Court of Appeals reversed the lower ruling to allow the divorce to move forward.

After judges in four **Florida** counties ruled against bans opposing marriage equality, a federal judge has declared the state's ban unconstitutional. It is the 19th federal ruling.

The **4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** refused a request to stay their ruling to strike down the **Virginia's** ban on same-sex marriage, but the U.S. Supreme Court delayed same-sex ceremonies because of a request from a Virginia county clerk. This stay followed one from the **10th Circuit Court** extending the stay on last month's ruling that **Colorado's** same-sex marriage ban is unconstitutional.

In early August, a three-judge panel from the **6th Court of Appeals** heard arguments from **Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, and Tennessee**. No decision has been made, but the three judges appear split in their leanings.

The **Connecticut** state Supreme Court has ruled that some legal rights of same-sex couples are retroactive to predate the state's 2008 adoption of marriage equality and earlier approval of civil unions. A widow may now sue a doctor for medical malpractice for the death of her wife which occurred before the state adopted marriage equality.

California Gov. Jerry Brown signed a bill to replace the words "husband" or "wife" with "spouse" in the state's constitution.

The **Puyallup Tribe** has become the tenth Native-American tribe to legalize same-sex marriage. Some of these tribes are in states that ban marriage equality.

The **7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals** heard oral arguments last week regarding overturned marriage equality bans in **Indiana and Wisconsin**. The court also denied requests that the states' appeals be heard before the full 10-member court instead of the customary three-judge panel. The **9th U.S. Circuit Court** will hear arguments about cases in **Nevada and Idaho** on September 8. Other affected states from that court's rulings are **Alaska, Arizona, and Montana**.

People Who Make a Difference



Xavier Bettel, Luxembourg's prime minister, is the third LGBT leader of a country in the world, all European countries. He has also asked his partner, Gauthier Destenay (left), to marry him. The other two LGBT leaders are Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo of Belgium (below) and former Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir of Iceland (left) with her spouse, writer Jonina Leosdottir. (See also p. 3.)



Rachel Pepe, 13, was told that she could not return to her Middletown (NJ) school until she dressed and acted like a boy in addition to using the name on her birth certificate. The district would not make other accommodations such as allowing Pepe to use the bathroom in the nurse's office. The mother of the transgender girl asked about Pepe's attending a more accepting private school, but the district refused to support any tuition costs. Rachel's mother (left) hoped that the publicity would help other young people who are afraid to be themselves. Since Pepe went public about the discrimination, Superintendent William O. George said he will work with staff to make sure Rachel could attend school in a safe environment.



Middletown Township Public School staff will also undergo lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender sensitivity training. The U.S. Department of Education has clarified that Title IX, the federal legislation that prohibits sex discrimination, extends to transgender students. (See also p. 3.)

Photographer **iO Tillett Wright** has initiated Self Evident Truths, a project to create a photographic document of 10,000 people in the USA who identify as ANYTHING OTHER than 100% straight—as in anywhere on the LGBTQ spectrum in ANY way, even 1% gay. <http://www.selfevidentproject.com/about/>



Top U.S. LGBT Friendly Colleges

Of the top LGBT-friendly colleges in the United States, four are in Oregon: Oregon State University, Portland State University, Southern Oregon University, and University of Oregon. The others are listed here: <http://www.washingtonblade.com/2014/08/15/top-50-lgbt-friendly-colleges/>

ABA Endorses LGBT Rights

The American Bar Association has officially adopted a policy recognizing the rights of LGBT people as basic human rights.

The resolution from the 400,000-member legal organization urges countries to “ensure the safety and equal protection under the law of all LGBT people” and calls on ABA members to defend victims of discrimination and “to recognize and support their colleagues who take these cases as human rights advocates.”

ABA also asks governments of countries where such discriminatory laws, regulations, and practices exist to repeal discriminatory laws, regulations, and practices “with all deliberate speed.”

City Mayor Fights Discrimination Against LGBT College Members

Because Gordon College in Salem (MA) claimed a religious right to discriminate against LGBT students, staff, and faculty, the city canceled its contract to manage Salem’s Old Town Hall.

A posting on Glenn Beck’s *The Blaze* brought a barrage of angry, offensive anti-LGBT tirades to Mayor Kimberly Driscoll. She responded by donating \$5 to a local LGBT rights group for every discriminatory call that she received. No taxpayer funds have been used for the donations.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

September 5-7: Oregon Coast Pride, Lincoln City

September 10, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting, Honoring PFLAG Heroes—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

September 13, 8:30 am-1:15 pm: PFLAG table—Newport Farmers Market

September 20, 3:00- 7:00 pm: PFLAG at Peace Celebration—Newport High School East Campus

September 23, 7 :00 pm: CAN Pizza—Abby’s, Newport

September 28 , 11:00 am: Out Oregon Coast Women’s Coffee—Café Mundo, Newport

October 8, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

October 26 , 11:00 am: Out Oregon Coast Women’s Coffee, Café Mundo, 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 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>

“There are times when maintaining the status quo makes sense. There are also times when maintaining the status quo is merely a kinder label for perpetuating discrimination that should no longer be tolerated.”

-- Attorneys for Jayne Rowse and April DeBoer, a couple challenging a marriage ban in Michigan

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:

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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