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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

April 2015

Take Action

GLAAD, among other groups and individuals, is circulating a petition to end the Boy Scouts' policy of banning gay Scout leaders: <http://www.glaad.org/scouts>

A woman in Midland (MI) tried to stop a transgender woman from changing in the woman's locker room by complaining to staff, corporate headquarters, and other gym members. The gym cancelled the complainer's membership. Kudos to Planet Fitness: it lives up its slogan "judgment-free zone." You can send them a thank-you note here: [http://
action.equalitymi.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?
action_KEY=1563&track=eqmius](http://action.equalitymi.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=1563&track=eqmius)

Matthew McLaughlin is a California lawyer who filed a ballot initiative to kill all gays. (See p. 2.) The following is one of several petitions on the Internet to disbar McLaughlin from practicing law: [http://forcechange.com/139774/
dont-execute-gay-people-to-save-us-from-gods-wrath/](http://forcechange.com/139774/dont-execute-gay-people-to-save-us-from-gods-wrath/)

Oregon HB 2307, banning sexual orientation conversion therapy for minors, has now passed the House and moved to the Senate. Ask your senator to vote for this bill.

Marriage Equality Gains Popularity in the U.S.

The General Social Survey, highly regarded data about social trends, has found that 56 percent think same-sex couples should have the right to be married, up from 48 percent in 2012 and from 11 percent in 1988. Only one-third of the respondents oppose marriage equality. Among Republicans, 45 percent now support marriage equality, compared to 21 percent just two years ago. Although 40 percent think that same-sex sexual relations are always wrong, this is only half the 80 percent in 1987. An NBC/Wall Street Journal survey of U.S. voters shows an even higher support for marriage equality at 59 percent.

Legal Ways to Fight against Bigoted Actions

When the law opposes LGBT rights, some people work to win rights through legal means.



Oklahoma is on the verge of passing a “religious belief” discrimination law similar to the one that Indiana’s Gov. Mike Pence recently signed. State Rep. Emily Virgin proposed an amendment to that law, requiring discriminating people to post a clearly visible sign on its window and promotional materials, including websites, telling people of that discrimination. Oklahoma’s bill was pulled because of the proposed amendment, but Josh Driver is selling stickers for welcoming businesses (left). The \$10 charge pays for the sticker and provides another \$6.50 donation to to SCORE, a non-profit organization that provides free mentorship and counseling for small business start-

ups. Driver has sold stickers in 25 states during his first two weeks.

In **California**, AG Kamala Harris has requested the state Supreme Court for permission to reject a proposed ballot initiative that would make gay sex punishable by death. The ballot initiative, called the Sodomite Suppression Act, calls for people who have sex with members of the same gender to be killed “by bullets to the head or by any other convenient method.” It also calls for a \$1 million fine against anyone distributing “sodomistic propaganda,” along with up to 10 years in prison and expulsion from the state. Without permission from the court, Harris would be required to allow the sponsor, Matthew McLaughlin, to gather the 336,000 signatures necessary for qualification on the November 2016 ballot.

Charlotte Laws has an alternative to this ballot measure. She plans to file the Intolerant Jackass Act, that proposes that anyone who brings a “kill the gays” ballot initiative forward “shall be required to attend sensitivity training for at least three (3) hours per month for twelve (12) consecutive months” and “the offender” or “Intolerant Jackass” must donate \$5,000 to a pro-gay or pro-lesbian organization.”

In **Alabama**, the state where the law of same-sex marriage remains the most confused, a judge wants to promptly allow such marriages if the U.S. Supreme Court rules in their favor, avoiding “foot-dragging or other forms of resistance.” Hinting at the state’s history of resistance to racial desegregation, and pleading for its future reputation, Probate Judge Steven L. Reed of Montgomery argued that the state judiciary “should make clear that it will not seek to delay the ability of Alabama citizens to exercise their constitutional rights as they are declared by the Supreme Court of the United States.”

Legally married same-sex couples with low to moderate incomes are eligible to claim the **federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**. Because it is a credit, not a deduction, the EITC can reduce federal income tax on a dollar for dollar basis. It is also refundable, meaning that qualifying couples can receive the credit even if they do not owe federal income taxes. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/report/2015/02/23/107154/what-the-lgbt-community-needs-to-know-about-the-earned-income-tax-credit-in-2015/>

American Progress has put together a series of **fact sheets** on LGBT discrimination: <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/lgbt/news/2015/03/10/108227/fact-sheets-comprehensive-nondiscrimination-protections/?>

Politics on Our Side

Arizona: The state Supreme Court's Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee has ordered judges and other court officials to officiate marriages of same-sex couples if they do the same for opposite-sex couples. Arizona is the first state to issue a formal public opinion on marriage equality to its judiciary.

Indiana: The state has paid \$650,000 in legal fees to the lawyers who successfully challenged the state's same-sex marriage ban, \$325,000 to Kirkland & Ellis and \$325,000 to Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund.

Florida: Florida's Republican-dominated House passed an amendment erasing a 2010 ban on same-sex couples' adopting children after an appeals court ruled the law was unconstitutional. The bill now goes to the state Senate, where supporters expect it to be approved.

Oklahoma: Although this state is just one of the several attempting to allow businesses and other entities to discriminate against LGBT people using religious belief as an excuse, an amendment is slowing down the bill's progress. The bill's amendment requires discriminating people to post a clearly visible sign on its window and promotional materials, including websites, telling people of that discrimination.

Utah: A new law to include sexual orientation and gender identity in the state's anti-discrimination and fair housing acts was supported by Mormon church leaders because it includes religious considerations.

West Virginia: While other states such as Georgia, Indiana, and Oklahoma advance so-called "religious" discrimination bills, WV has declined to vote on such a bill.

United States: More than 300 veteran Republican lawmakers, operatives, and con-

sultants have filed a friend of the court brief at the Supreme Court in support of same-sex marriage late Thursday. These include 23 current and former GOP congressional members and seven current and former GOP governors. The 303 signatures are more than double the 131 signatures on a 2013 brief supporting marriage equality. The 2015 brief states that the ban against same-sex marriage is "inconsistent with the United States Constitution's dual promises of equal protection and due process."

United States: The Army is taking the same baby steps toward treatment of transgender personnel that it did before overturning the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy: removal of a transgender service member from the Army must now be approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, rather than by local unit commanders.

United States: The President's Task Force on 21 Century Policing, calling for changes to law enforcement policies, is including profiling and discrimination against the LGBT community.

United States: The U.S. Labor Department has updated the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) to include same-sex partners to its definition of "spouse." update the meaning of "spouse" to include same-sex partners in all states if they have been legally married in state that recognizes marriage equality.

United States: Eleven Republicans joined the Democrats in the U.S. Senate to pass an amendment allowing all legally married same-sex couples to receive Social Security and veterans benefits, no matter where they live.

[More "Politics on Our Side" from around the world is on p. 5.]

Bits in LGBT News

The official dictionary of the Swedish language will **add the gender-neutral pronoun "hen"** beginning next month. The new pronoun refers to a person without revealing gender because it is unknown, the person is transgender, or the person deems gender to be superfluous information.

A Harry Potter reader wrote J.K.Rowling: "I wonder why you said that Dumbledore is a gay because I can't see him in that way."

She answered: "Maybe because **gay people just look like... people?**"

The Washington Blade, first LGBT newspaper and now into its 45th year of publishing will receive the **Making D.C. History Award** from the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

Negative media attention has caused *Psychology Today* to **stop accepting advertising** for the dangerous gay conversion therapy services.

The Navy has fired a Navy chaplain, Lt. Commander Wes Modder, because of his **discrimination against gay students** at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command because of his "failure to uphold the core capabilities of chaplains ..., the duty to be sensitive to the religious, spiritual, moral, cultural, and personal differences of those you serve."

Local PFLAG Moves Forward

OUT on the Oregon Coast Celebrates Happy Hour

Happy Hour with a mixed group of LGBT friends—old and new—is new to the Oregon Coast. We gather at Georgie's for adult beverages and tasty Happy Hour menu treats and to get acquainted with newcomers to the community. Don't miss the next gathering on Tuesday, April 14 from 4:00-6:00 pm at Georgie's Lounge. Invite a friend and have a good time socializing together! All LGBT friends and allies are welcome!

PFLAG Chapter Library Opens

Thanks to the generous hospitality of St. Stephen's Church, PFLAG has bookshelves for books, DVDs, workshop handouts, and other PFLAG materials that are available for checkout. The library was a joint effort of PFLAG's co-chair, Ineka Estabrook, and Newport High GSA president, McKenzie Figuracion, and GSA member Mia Estabrook. It's a joy to see our books and materials well organized and on display for members to peruse and checkout before and after meetings. Ineka will do short "book talks" at each meeting to highlight specific books and DVDs of special interest. If you have a particular title that you would like for PFLAG to purchase for the library, please let Ineka or Jeanne know.



March PFLAG Meeting Featured GSA Students

The program for the regular March PFLAG meeting included reports from GSA students about their activities in their schools as well as presentations they have been making in the community and at other schools.

More 'Politics on Our Side' from the World

Alberta (Canada): The conservative government in this province has passed a bill that all schools, even religious ones, are required to allow GSAs if a student requests one. The bill also adds sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, and gender expression to Alberta's already established Bill of Rights. With royal assent, this bill goes into law on June 1.

News from the World of Religion

After Indiana passed a law to use "religious belief" for legal discrimination against LGBT people, among others, the Indianapolis-based Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) may move its 2017 convention that draws about 6,000 attendees. [More about Indiana's law and the backlash at <https://nelsnewday.wordpress.com/2015/03/27/indiana-legalizes-discrimination/> and <https://nelsnewday.wordpress.com/2015/03/29/conservatives-fight-for-power-through-claims-of-religious-freedom/>

A coalition led by Mark McKinnon, a former adviser to George W. Bush, is opposing two proposed constitutional amendments discriminatory to the LGBT community on the pretext of religious freedom.

With its new definition of marriage as "between two people," the Presbyterian Church, with 1.76 million members, has joined other denominations that permit same-sex marriage. Because 41 Presbyteries voted against the change, however, the Book of Order added a caveat explaining that marriage "traditionally" occurs "between a man and a woman." Hundreds of parishes have already left the Presbyterian Church, leaving it with 10,038 member churches in 2013.

Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, has called the concept of "reparative" therapy "severely counterproductive" and said that gay and lesbian people have been treated "really, really badly."

"Owning Our Faith," a 14-minute documentary "encouraging a dialogue" between LGBT Catholics and their church for equality, came about when Pope Francis invited filmmakers to create this project. He will be receiving a copy of the film.

A delegation of 50 LGBT Catholics was the first such group to be seated in a front section with dignitaries and special Catholic groups in the Vatican's St. Peter's Square. As the pope passed by the group, they sang "All Are Welcome."

European Union: Europe's top human rights court ruled against the government of Turkey that denied a transman the right to gender reassignment surgery unless he agreed to be sterilized.

Japan: The education ministry is directing educational institutions to give attention to and support LGBTI students, including staff training and avoiding negative judgment.

Slovenia: The parliament has given marriage rights, including adoption, to all same-sex couples. It is the first central European country to legalize marriage equality.

United Kingdom: The British government has asked authorities in more than 70 countries, including the U.S., to clarify the rights of married same-sex couples while traveling or living abroad. The request was submitted by Equalities Minister Jo Swinson, who cited legal gray areas for LGBT couples abroad.

United Nations: The UN is providing partner benefits to all same-sex married couples, affecting over 44,000 UN staff. A measure from Russia to make the benefits contingent on whether a country legalized marriage equality was voted down.

People Who Make a Difference

Same-sex marriage is legal in Florida, but some counties stopped all courthouse weddings in protest. Called for jury duty, openly gay **Chuck Chapman**, 63, refused to serve on a jury until the Duval County Clerk of Court Ronnie Fussell agreed to marry people, including same-sex couples. Although he could have been held in contempt of court, Chapman was simply released from jury duty. He has lived in Jacksonville since he was two years old. The 1911 marriages performed at the courthouse in 2013 generated about \$52,000 for the county.



Zoey Tur, special correspondent for the syndicated news magazine Inside Edition, has become the first openly transgender TV reporter. A former TV news helicopter pilot, Tur, 54, gained national attention in 1994 for following and covering the O.J. Simpson police chase through Los Angeles. She said that her awareness of the gender dysphoria began when she was six years old but came to the tipping point after she divorced Marika Gerrard in 2003. After Tur considered suicide, she decided to try hormone replacement therapy.



Self-identified “bear couple” **CJ Phillips and Charlie Rainwater** from Oregon bought the domain name JebBushforPresident.com in 2008 and now use it “to prompt understanding, insight, and healthy dialogue in the ever changing landscape of civil rights and social justice.” The self-described “high-tech bears” have had at least two interviews on *The Rachel Maddow Show*. http://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow/watch/bears-have-own-plan-for-jeb-bush-web-site-396584515618?cid=eml_mra_20150210

Pennsylvania Governor-Elect Tom Wolf has appointed transgender **Dr. Rachel Levine** as physician general in Wolf’s cabinet. She advises the governor and secretary of the Department of Health on medical and public health-related issues. Wolf said he chose her because “she has been a leading voice in efforts to treat teens with medical and psychological problems, as well as adults and children with eating disorders. It is important to me that we place equal emphasis on behavioral and physical health issues.”



A Facebook modification now allows U.S. users to add their own custom genders on personal profiles in addition to the 58 options provided for the past year. Users can also choose up to ten gender terms to describe themselves and customize who is able to see their gender identities.

LGBT 101 Presentation Oregon Coast Community College

This is a special invitation to attend a presentation of LGBT 101 by members of the Newport & Taft GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance) Clubs. The session will be Wednesday, April 1, 4:00-5:30 pm, in the Community Room at OCCC.

Ineka Estabrook, PFLAG Co-Chair and GSA/Teen Outreach leader, has been working with the students to present the four dimensions of human sexuality integrated with their own experiences of coming out to different types of families and cultures within our rural communities.

This session was intended to preview the GSA students' big presentation at the statewide Adolescent Sexuality Conference in Seaside on April 14 to an audience of mental and physical health professionals and educators who deal with issues of adolescent sexuality. Unfortunately the conference was canceled because of controversial and negative publicity by KOIN TV in Portland.

Our GSA students and PFLAG are undeterred--and we hope they will have a receptive and enthusiastic home audience who can help them fine-tune their presentation to make it even more effective at future events. We'll ask for your feedback and suggestions and will appreciate your willingness to learn from these dedicated teens. A few of them have already helped lead this workshop for middle and high school students, and secondary staff at Eddyville School where they were very well-received.

Please share this invitation with friends and colleagues who might be interested in knowing more about human sexuality and LGBT teens. If you are unable to attend on this date, please let us know if you are interested in scheduling a session for your work group, church or civic organization.

—Jeanne St. John

OCC PFLAG Calendar

April 1, 4:00-5:30 pm: LGBT 101 with GSA Students—OCCC, Newport

April 4, 7:30 pm: Sweet 16 Fundraiser—Hult Center for Performing Arts, Eugene
<https://www.facebook.com/events/715684361843703>

April 8, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting: LGBT History, "The Personal & the Political," with Nel Ward & Lee Lynch—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

April 14, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie's, Newport

April 21, 7:00 pm: CAN Pizza—Abby's, Newport

April 26, 11:00 am: Women's Coffee Hour—Café Mundo, Newport

The Coastal AIDS Network* monthly activities:

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

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

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>

The April 8 PFLAG meeting focus on LGBT history will be led by Nel Ward and Lee Lynch, Newport residents and activists for women's and LGBT rights. Progressive blogger and PFLAG newsletter editor, Ward works with the American Library Association to select quality LGBT books; Lynch writes award-winning books and the monthly column, "The Amazon Trail." *The butch cook book*, edited by Ward, Lynch, and Sue Hardesty, will be given away for donations to PFLAG, and Lynch will sell and autograph some of her books.

Join PFLAG!

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

_____ Household (\$35)
_____ Individual (\$25)
_____ Student/Limited Income (\$15)
_____ Contribution \$ _____

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

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