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Parents, Families, and
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Gays promotes the health
and well- being of gay,
lesbian, bisexual, and
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their families, and their
friends through
SUPPORT to cope with an
adverse society
EDUCATION to enlight-
en an ill-informed public
ADVOCACY to end dis-
crimination and secure
equal civil rights.

Oregon Central Coast Chapter

June 2016

Obama Administration Takes Action For Transgender Students in U.S.

On May 13, the Obama administration sent a letter to every public school district in the United States informing that they should allow transgender students to use bathrooms consistent with their chosen gender identity to avoid losing federal funding. Although the directive lacks the force of law, the federal government could eliminate funding for the state that violates it. The directive cites Title IX, the 1972 law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in federal-ly funded education. The letter from the Departments of Justice and Education is available here: <http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/i/MSNBC/Sections/NEWS/Dear%20Colleague%20Letter%20on%20Transgender%20Students.pdf>

The letter follows a lawsuit filed by the Department of Justice against North Carolina after the state passed its law preventing trans people from using bathrooms congruent with their gender identities. In her speech announcing the lawsuit, Attorney General Loretta Lynch compared the North Carolina law to enforced segregation and state bans on same-gender marriage, discriminatory responses from states to broader social change.

Oregon Guidelines for Transgender Students

Transgender students may use the bathrooms, names, and pronouns of their choice. Transgender students are not barred from participating in any activities, physical education, or sports. The state will require no proof before changing a student's gender in school records, and students' chosen names should be on attendance sheets and gradebooks. Upon graduation, students will receive two transcripts and diplomas, one with the legal names and the other with the preferred names. Students will also not be required to use unisex bathrooms or locker rooms, instead choosing which facilities they prefer.

Responses to Conservative ‘Religious Liberty’ Bills

“Red” states across the nation are following the North Carolina’s and Mississippi lead in discriminating against LGBT people, frequently using the excuse of “religious freedom” for proposed laws. In response, Democratic representatives Joe Kennedy (MA) and Bobby Scott (VA) have introduced legislation amending federal law to clarify that religious freedom, critical to civil life, cannot infringe on civil rights of others.

The Do No Harm Act would amend the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) to “protect civil rights and otherwise prevent meaningful harm to third parties, and for other purposes.” The bill states that the RFRA cannot be used as an “exemption that permits discrimination against other persons, including persons who do not belong to the religion or adhere to the other beliefs of those to whom the exemption is given.”

Another clarification in the bill is that the RFRA cannot grant broad exemptions to avoid nondiscrimination legislation on the basis of so-called “religious objections.” The object of the legislation is to respond to state laws that legislators claim only enshrine in state law the protections of federal law. The legislation most likely cannot pass in the Republican Congress, but it does send a message about state laws using religion as a reason to discriminate against a large number of individuals and groups.

The San Francisco 49ers have joined a long and growing list of sports groups, businesses, politicians, celebrities, and others calling for the repeal of North Carolina’s House Bill 2 (HB2). The team also donated \$75,000 to North Carolina’s largest queer advocacy group, Equality North Carolina.

Eleven states are suing the Obama administration for its directive telling schools to let transgender students use bathrooms matching their gender identity: Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. These law suits may cause the U.S. Supreme Court to settle the discrimination against transgender people. If so, the decision may rest on words from Justice Antonin Scalia in the 1991 case of *Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Services, Inc.* The court unanimously determined that an employer had violated Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act by ignoring the rape of a man in the showers at his job on an oil rig. Scalia said that the man’s rape by other men was clearly discrimination based on sex. The “bathroom” provision is about sex—“sex-based considerations”—just as other discriminations against LGBT people is about sex.

Just last month, the Supreme Court, in a 7-1 vote, refused to overturn a 1997 precedent ruling that the judicial branch should defer to a federal agency’s interpretation of its own regulations. That is the case used by the 4th Circuit Court ruling that upheld the right of a transgender boy to use the boys’ bathrooms at a Virginia high school. The Supreme Court refused to take the Virginia case, leaving its decision as law at this time and indicating a possible failure for the 11 states trying to overturn the directive regarding bathroom use in schools.

On the Lighter Side: Back in the 1990s, parking areas for lesbian potlucks had a vast number of Subarus. Now the company’s advertisers explained that they deliberately targeted lesbians. For example, an ad showed the vehicle with a license plate reading “Xena lvr.” Tag lines would read “Get out. And stay out” and “It’s not a choice. It’s the way we’re built.” The company’s flat sales moved into steady growth.

The PFLAG OCC Basic Needs Grants provides emergency or urgent relief to LGBT+ people in Lincoln County. Individuals of any age who identify as LGBT+ (or their caregivers) and who demonstrate a financial need for medical aid, housing, transportation, or food can apply. The maximum grant is \$250. Much of the Grant’s resources come from other LGBT+ people and straight allies. Contact PFLAG OCC at pflagocc@gmail.com for an application.

Politics on Our Side

United States: The biggest story of last month may be that the House approved a measure upholding the president's executive order barring discrimination against LGBT employees by federal contractors. The 223-195 vote includes over 40 GOP "yes" votes for the amendment to a spending bill. The prior week, the same measure had passed until Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) held voting open for six minutes after it should have closed so that seven GOP representatives, including Oregon's Greg Walden, could change their votes to no. At the failure of the measure, Democrats erupted in protest. [The Energy bill failed to pass.]

Alabama: A commission suspended the chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court for refusing to abide by the U.S. Supreme Court decision to recognize same-sex marriages. Roy Moore, who was removed from office in 2003 after refusing to remove a Ten Commandments monument from a public building, faces six charges of violating judicial ethics after he told state probate judges that they have a "ministerial duty" to limit marriage to heterosexual couples. The governor is also under investigation, but he's not likely to be impeached because the speaker of the Alabama House is under indictment on 23 felony corruption charges.

Louisiana: The Senate Judiciary B Committee voted 3-2 to shelve a bill passed by the House declaring that pastors and churches don't have to perform same-sex marriage ceremonies or allow them in their facilities. Existing law provides these protections, making the measure unnecessary.

New Hampshire: The Senate has passed a bill to ban gay conversion therapy on minors. It returns to the state House for language agreement before going to the Democratic governor for signing.

Vermont: Gov. Peter Shumlin signed a bill that bans gay conversion therapy to minors. Four other states and Washington, D.C. ban the practice, but similar bills failed in Hawaii and Colorado this year.

Virginia: The Supreme Court ruled that a person doesn't need to pay alimony to a former spouse if the payee is in a new relationship with a member of the same sex. The state's divorce law states that alimony payments can be stopped if the recipient remarries or cohabits with another person for at least a year. In 2008, Michael Luttrell agreed to pay alimony to Samantha Cucco for eight years but Cucco became engaged to another woman in 2014. A Fairfax County judge had earlier ruled that that the right to marry "has nothing to do with termination of spousal support... you have to be cohabiting. And cohabiting requires different sexes." Cucco now has to repay alimony for the time that she has been "cohabitating" with another woman.

Denmark: As the first European country to oppose the World Health Organization (WHO) trans standards, Denmark agrees with the strong medical consensus that transgender should not be classified as a mental illness. In 2011, the European Parliament began calling on WHO to stop pathologizing trans people by removing the blanket "gender identity disorder" classification.

Germany: The German government plans to remove convictions of gay men imprisoned after World War II because of their sexuality. Paragraph 175, the Nazi-era law victimizing gay men, continued after the fall of Nazis as the government continued anti-LGBT raids and court action. About 50,000 men were convicted between 1946 and 1969 when homosexuality was decriminalized.

The United Methodist Church (UMC) has created a **commission** to decide whether the largest American mainline Christian denomination should ordain LGBT people and allow pastors to officiate same-sex marriages. The decision at its Portland (OR) meeting may indicate an institutional shift.

Home movies from Harold O'Neal's private collection are now housed in the San Francisco GLBT Historical Society archives. His movies, available after they have been digitized, show the personal lives of gays—house parties, drag shows, etc.—during the mid-20th century.

Edith Windsor, plaintiff in the Supreme Court case that legalized marriage equality, is partnering with Lesbians Who Tech to create the Edie Windsor Coding Scholarship Fund, to send 11 to 15 lesbian or queer-identifying women to the computer coding school or bootcamp of their choice. Windsor was a leading software engineer at IBM.



Kae and Jeanne—Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/jeanne.st.john.9?ref=br_rs

From the PFLAG Chair—

Princess McKenzie Figuracion (also president of the Newport High School GSA) riding in the Loyalty Days Parade:



Jeanne St.John has asked that people send their memories or other messages via either Facebook or email for her partner, Kae Bates (left). She also asked that this one from Jordan Ostrum, past president of the Newport High School GSA for three years, be reprinted in the PFLAG newsletter:

Kae is my grandma--not by blood but through love. I remember in a PFLAG meeting once you were talking, I think, about Gay 101 trainings, and Kae's sharp eye had spotted a mistake on the handout. She of course didn't wait until later to bring it up--she mentioned it right there when you were speaking. "Well, could you maybe tell me about it back home so I can fix it?" was your response. "Oh OK." she said. It just seemed like such an endearing, "old-married couple" moment. Always working so well together, as a team, a partnership.

Another time she was talking to me, and out of the blue mentioned the service, and the draft. She looked at me and said she really hoped I would never have to serve, and mentioned her husband. She started to tear up, because of all the love she had for me, and him, and the world.

I'm wearing my "PFLAG Loves You!" shirt right now, thinking about how much Kae really embodies that. She may be physically leaving us now, and that is sad. I'm crying right now. For you, for Kae, for me. But every PFLAG meeting I'll think of her. And even at those chapters--at those meetings, all across the country, where they've never met or even heard of Kae--she will be there, because of that. Because of the love her spirit gives for other people who need it. Sending my love to you Jeanne and to Kae.—Jordan.

People Who Make a Difference

[Editorial comment: I never thought I'd see it happen!] In a voice vote, the Senate unanimously confirmed **Eric Fanning** (right) as Secretary of the Army, making him the first openly gay leader of a U.S. military Service. Fanning's confirmation was held up for eight months after President Obama nominated him. Until 2011, gays and lesbians couldn't openly serve in the military. During his press conference after being sworn in, Fanning thanked his boyfriend Ben Masri-Cohen for his patience during a "confusing" confirmation process.



A security guard at a Washington, D.C. Giant Food grocery store was arrested for pushing **Ebony Belcher** (left), a transgender woman, out of the store after she tried to use the women's restroom. The guard grabbed her and pushed her out of the store after telling her, "You guys cannot keep coming in here and using our women's restroom. They did not pass the law yet." Seventy percent of transgender and gender non-conforming people reported experiencing verbal assault, physical assault and being denied restroom access, according to a 2013 report by the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law.

The American Civil Liberties Union and a gay couple, **Stephen Thomas and Nykolos Alford** (right), are suing Mississippi over its law permitting individuals and businesses to deny people services and goods based on a "religious belief." The suit equates the discriminatory law to the Jim Crow laws of the past. The parties are asking a federal judge to declare that House Bill 1523 violates the equal-protection guarantee of the 14th Amendment and block the state from enforcing the law.



Barbara Satin, 82, is the newest member of the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. She was born "David" and took the name of Barbara at the age of 60. On May 12, when he appointed Satin to the group, President Obama also announced the appointments of Sikh leader Manjit Singh and Baha'i leader Naseem Kourosh to the faith council.

Let Trans People Use the Right Bathroom!

Shawn Stinson, the world's first (FTM) Female-to-Male bodybuilding champion.



Princess Dracat
@DiracDrynx

Follow

@JayShef @PatMcCrorryNC And it's the law for me to go in the men's room with you, governor. pic.twitter.com/HNdEBC2W4i
11:55 AM - 24 Mar 2016



Michael C. Hughes
@_michaelhughes1

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#transawareness #occupypotty #translivesmatter #wejustneedtopee

10:07 AM - 11 Mar 2015

1,304 RETWEETS 1,084 FAVORITES



44 118

In a May 12 radio interview on KYAQ, Ineka Estabrook talked about PFLAG and the state of LGBT+ in Lincoln County. A radio version of the LGBT+ 101 panel presentation is scheduled on KYAQ (91.7), Friday, June 10, at 7:00 pm. Members of PFLAG and high school GSAs will discuss sexual orientation and gender identity.

Peace Village still needs volunteers for its one-week summer camp (August 8-12) for children ages 6-12 to explore peaceful resolution of conflicts, justice, and celebrating diversity. Volunteers should email Ineka at inekae@gmail.com.

PFLAG will take a bus full of GSA members to the Portland Price Festival on June 18.



The famous Manhattan bar where riots against police oppression toward LGBT people on June 28, 1969 may have started the modern-day LGBT rights movement may become the first national monument dedicated to LGBT rights.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) said that the nation should recognize the place because it tells “the story of the United States” just like Seneca Falls (NY), dedicated to the women’s rights movement, and Selma (AL), named for the civil rights department.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

June—LGBT Pride Month

June 1, 7:00 pm: Trans Support Group and Trans Parents Support Group—Atonement Lutheran Church, 2315 N. Coast Hwy., Newport (Go to the back of the church and down the steps.)

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

June 10, 7:00: LBGT+ Panel Presentation on KYAK (91.7).

June 14, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie’s Beachside Grill, Newport

June 18: Portland Pride Festival

June 26, 11:00 am: OUT OR Coast Women’s Coffee - Café Mundo, Newport

June 28: Anniversary of Stonewall riots, a catalyst for the LGBT movement for civil rights in the United States.

May 22, 11:00 am: OUT OR Coast Women’s Coffee - Café Mundo, Newport

August 8-12: Peace Village

* * * * *



Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and as a National Historic Landmark, Stonewall was designated a New York City landmark last year, the first time a site had received the designation because of its significance to LGBT history.

(Above left: The Stonewall Inn in 1969.)

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.

Make check payable and mail to:
Oregon Central Coast PFLAG
PO Box 2172
Newport, OR 97365

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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