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PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons, their families, and their friends through

SUPPORT to cope with an adverse society

EDUCATION to enlighten an ill-informed public

ADVOCACY to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights.

Oregon Central Coast Chapter

December 2016

Take Action

<http://www.care2.com/causes/what-does-trumps-presidency-mean-for-lgbt-rights.html> Oppose the discriminatory anti-LGBT First Amendment Defense Act (FADA). More information on p. 5.



Congratulations to Kate Brown, the first elected LGBTQ governor in the nation! She ran as the incumbent after replacing former Governor John Kitzhaber who resigned in 2015. Brown voiced her commitment to fighting against discrimination after her win, tweeting, “25 years ago, I chose a life of public service because I wanted to be a voice for the voiceless... I vowed I would do everything I could to make sure no one has to face discrimination or live in fear.”

The six LGBTQ incumbents in the U.S. House—Sean Patrick Maloney (NY), Kyrsten Sinema (AZ), Mark Pocan (WI), Mark Takano (CA), David Cicilline (RI), and Jared Polis (CO)—were reelected. The number of LGBTQ publicly out state representatives and senators dropped from 110—about 1.5 percent of the nation’s legislators—to 105, but several were elected for the first time: <https://lgbtqrightsrep.files.wordpress.com/2015/05/usa16lgbtqelected.pdf> Oregon has three House members—Tina Kotek, Rob Nosse, and newly elected Karin Power.

In Oregon, 50 of 67 BAC-supported candidates won. <http://www.basicrights.org/2016equalitypac/>

PFLAG Youth May Save the U.S.



Above: Young PFLAGers at the November monthly meeting commemorate the Transgender Day of Remembrance that memorializes the transgender people killed during the previous year. <https://tdor.info/>

Right: Newport High School GSA commemoration of the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 18.



U.S. Politics Pro, Con

Minnesota: Judge William Leary ruled the state's 11-year ban on transgender coverage unconstitutional.

United States: President Obama has said he will veto the 2017 defense authorization bill when it reaches his desk if Republicans insist on including an anti-LGBTQ "religious freedom" provision. The Russell Amendment, named after its sponsor Oklahoma Republican Steve Russell, has already passed the House. It would allow federal contractors to discriminate against the LGBTQ community provided they claim they are doing so out of a strongly held religious belief in opposition to an executive order from President Obama.

The Senate did not add the provision to its version of the bill, known as the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), mean-

ing there could be a standoff when Congress meets after the presidential election in a lame-duck session where they will be under pressure to resolve differences between the chambers and get the bill to the president's desk. The disagreement could result in a filibuster in the Senate.

Take Action: You can find out more about—and oppose—the Russell Amendment here: https://act.credoaction.com/sign/russell_amendment_m?t=2&akid=20412.1033482.0A2jhj

The Pentagon plans to treat same-gender couples exactly the same as opposite-gender couples. That's why there may be an ultimatum that unmarried LGBTQ couples who work for the U.S. military as civilians may lose their benefits if they don't get legally married as of December 31, 2016.

Thanks to President Obama

As Barack Hussein Obama leaves the office of U.S. President after two terms, we should honor him for the progress in LGBT rights during that time despite GOP strong opposition:

The Supreme Court ruled that marriage equality is the law of the land, a decision supported by the Obama administration.

Congress passed the Matthew Shepard & James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act and removed the ban on openly gay and lesbian military service personnel.

The Affordable Care Act has done much to improve health care for LGBTQ people.

Federal sex discrimination protections have strongly supported trans rights.



President Obama has been a strong advocate for positive change in the LGBTQ community. As he said in his final Pride Month proclamation: "Love is love and ... no person should be judged by anything but the content of their character."

Ruling against Transgender Student Saves Man's Life

Gavin Grimm, 17, cannot use the boys' restroom, probably during his entire senior year, although the 4th Circuit Court overturned a lower court order for the School Board of Gloucester County (VA) that allowed schools to prevent transgender students from using bathrooms aligning with their gender identity.

The Supreme Court will take on the case and maintain the status quo (no bathroom use for Gavin) while the case is being appealed after Justice Stephen Breyer gave a "courtesy vote" to go with the conservative bloc of four other justices.

Grimm was dismayed by Breyer's vote, but he may have—at least temporarily—saved the life of an Alabama prisoner on death row.

The Supreme Court requires five votes to temporarily block a lower court ruling during the wait for a review.

Last month, Chief Justice John Roberts provided another "courtesy fifth," this time to postpone an execution scheduled for the day of the SCOTUS vote until the high court can determine whether it will hear the case. The vote was probably reciprocal for Breyer's earlier vote. Grimm saved a man's life—at least temporarily.

Thomas Arthur has been on death row for 34 years and was scheduled to be killed with a lethal injection shown to cause extreme pain in other inmates executed in this manner.

Safe Schools Award for LCSD



[Above left to right: Joy Wallace, OSSCC; Ardis Letey and Elizabeth Jones, OCC PFLAG; and Susan Van Liew, LCSD]

A teen suicide ten years ago transformed Lincoln County. In response to this tragedy, Lincoln County School District prioritized the mental health and support of LGBTQ youth. Strategies that have been implemented include:

- Supporting the creation of GSAs in high schools and middle schools;

- Including a school administrator on the LGBTQ Task Force, a community group dedicated to improving the lives of LGBTQ community members;

- Staff and student training in LGBTQ and Trans 101, from middle school on up

- Bully prevention and character education in all schools

- Promoting out LGBTQ staff members

- Providing professional development about trans issues to administrators and counselors; and

- Challenging principals to create gender neutral bathrooms for all students.

Using multiple strategies across grade levels and in the community, Lincoln County School District models what can be done in a school district when multiple groups come together and a school district provides the leadership and focus on important educational issues.

We offer Lincoln County School District as a model for other Oregon districts. [From the Portland-based Oregon Safe Schools & Communities Coalition]

U.S. To Be Hard-Hit with Discrimination

Good news about LGBTQ rights and progress is vital to keeping us going forward. Yet support for LGBTQ people also requires an understanding of the risks from our future. These are some problems that we will face. One **Take Action** is described on p. 3. Another is FADA (**Take Action** on p. 1), a bill which uses “religious reasons” to allow employees to hire—and not hire—individuals based on the employers’ personal beliefs that marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman and that sexual relations should be reserved to such a marriage.



FADA would allow businesses to deny LGBTQ couples time off to care for their ailing spouses. The bill has been endorsed by president-elect Donald Trump and is similar to the one passed in Indiana when vice-president-elect Mike Pence (upper right) was governor. [Photo Credit: Gage Skidmore/Flickr]

Trump has **promised to repeal** all of President Obama’s executive orders, one of which is protection for LGBT employees of federal contractors.

Trump **hasn’t specified** that the Civil Rights Act will include LGBT people.

Trump **supports North Carolina’s “bathroom” bill** against trans people as states’ rights.

Trump **promises to uphold the “sanctity” of the so-called “traditional” marriage** and will appoint Supreme Court justices who opposed marriage equality to reverse the 2015 ruling.

Trump promised to sign a bill protecting **religious “freedom of conscience”** such as FADA.

Trump & Pence want to **repeal the Affordable Care Act** which will hurt the LGBT community.

Pence **promotes conversion therapy** and advocates directing resources “toward those institutions which provide assistance to those seeking to change their sexual behavior.”

Pence tried to **eradicate Planned Parenthood** in his state, leading to a **surge in HIV cases**. He also shut down Indiana’s only large-scale HIV testing facility.

Paul Ryan, House Speaker, plans to **privatize Medicare** soon, pushing it much closer to insolvency and hurting LGBT people who depend on this form of healthcare.

Jeff Sessions, GOP senator from Alabama, has been nominated for Attorney General and Betsy DeVos, **an anti-LGBT activist**, has been nominated for Secretary of Education.

Ben Carson, who compared marriage equality to bestiality, is being considered for Housing and Urban Development Secretary.

J. Kenneth Blackwell, head of Trump’s domestic policy, said, “Homosexuality is a lifestyle, it’s a choice, and that lifestyle can be changed.” He **compared LGBT people to arsonists and kleptomaniacs** because “homosexuality is a compulsion that can be contained, repressed or changed.”

The above and many other proposed anti-LGBTQ actions means that our community needs to stand together and fight to keep the rights that we have gained during the past few decades.

People Who Make a Difference



In the 18th century, English immigrants to America fought a war to gain freedom when they could no longer endure their oppressive government. Almost 250 years later, a play portrays these “founding fathers” with actors who are primarily black and Latino in a record-setting play that began off-Broadway almost 22 months ago. *Hamilton: An American Musical*, inspired by rap and hip hop, follows the events leading up to the duel between vice-president Aaron Burr, played by African-American Brandon Victor Dixon, and Alexander Hamilton, portrayed by openly gay Javier Munoz who is HIV-positive, after Hamilton’s reputation has been destroyed by false scandal and Burr puts personal gain above the good of his country. It was Hamilton’s belief that Burr was “a dangerous man, and one who ought not be trusted with the reins of government.”

When vice-president elect Mike Pence attended a performance about Hamilton, an orphaned immigrant from the Caribbean, Dixon asked him to stay after the curtain call and hear a brief prepared speech:

“Mike Pence, we welcome you here. We are the diverse Americans who are alarmed and anxious that your new administration will not protect us, our planet, our children, our parents. Or defend us and uphold our inalienable rights ... we hope that this show has inspired you to uphold our American values and work on behalf of all of us. We thank you for sharing this wonderful American story, told by a diverse group of men and women of different colors, creeds and orientations.”

Hamilton’s creator and original star Lin-Manuel Miranda, director Thomas Kail, and lead producer Jeffrey Seller wrote the speech with input from cast members. We applaud the *Hamilton* family for sending this respectful message to the man who supports “conversion therapy” and claims that marriage equality will lead to “societal collapse.”

OCC PFLAG Activities

World AIDS Day is December 1. OCC is partnering with PFLAG to host the AIDS quilt, bringing two panels representing Lincoln County residents who died of the AIDS virus. These will be displayed in the library November 28-December 1, 9:00 am-6:00 pm.

December 2 is the Oregon Coast GSA Third Annual Leadership Conference. The LGBTQ Social follows.

On November 9, Safe Schools presented LCSD with a Safe Schools award for their support of trans students as well as other LGBTQ students and staff. Two other Lincoln County schools—Newport High School and Taft 7-12—have won this state-wide award in the past few years.

Also on November 9, PFLAG commemorated the Transgender Day of Remembrance at its November meeting. NHS GSA honored the annual event on November 18. See p. 2.

Debbie Spicer, Ineka Estabrook, and Susan Van Liew met with OCC president, Dr. Birgitte Ryslinge, on November 14 to talk about making their college more inclusive, especially to transgender students.

On November 16, PFLAG joined with NOW, My Sister's Place, and Centro de Ayuda for the third meeting of the newly formed Diversity Coalition in Lincoln County. An initial step will be to establish a mission statement from the goal of combatting discrimination and empowering vulnerable Lincoln County. Kelly Everfree, married to Lisa Gray, chairs the coalition.

On January 21, PFLAG will join with local organizations to march in Newport in solidarity with the Women's March in Washington DC.

[Right: In October the monthly meeting of LGBT Social Meeting of PFLAG youth celebrated Halloween with the traditional carving of pumpkins.]

OCC PFLAG Calendar

December 1, 6:30 pm: World Aids Day Candlelight Vigil—OCCC Courtyard

December 2: Oregon Coast GSA Third Annual Leadership Conference followed by the LGBTQ Social for teens and young adults at 634 NE 7th Street, Newport (More information: (541)272-7817 or (541)829-9049.)

December 13, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie's Beachside Grill, Newport

December 14, 6:00-7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting, Annual Winter Holiday Party—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

December 18, 11:00 am: OUT OR Coast Women's Coffee - Café Mundo, Newport

January 21: March in solidarity with the Women's March in Washington, D.C.

The PFLAG OCC Basic Needs Grants provide 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 pflag-occ@gmail.com for an application.



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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