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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

April 2019

Reminder: The OCCC newsletter will now use the term “Q” for sexual minorities instead of LGBTQ. The former term may still be used in quotations. The reason is to be more inclusive: a new study reports that Q youth are less likely to use traditional labels for gender and sexual identity. Published in the *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, the study explains that more young people identify as pansexual, non-binary, or asexual than lesbian, gay, or bisexual.

Take Action

Join the digital boycott against Chick-fil-a, the homophobic corporation that donates to anti-Q organizations: https://go.fightforequality.org/page/s/Chick-fil-A-Petition?source=MS_EM_PET_2019.03.27_B4_Digital-Boycott_X_F1_S1_C1_all

Each year, Gay & Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest (GLAPN) honors a Queer Hero for each day in June, based on a combination of risk, sacrifice, service, example, and inspiration from people, living or dead, who make the world an easier place to be Q. Nominations are due on April 1. <http://glapn.org/queer-heroes-nw/>

Ban Q discrimination and sign on to the Equality Act here: pflag.org/equalitystartswithme

Thank Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) for re-introducing the Equality Act: <https://www.merkley.senate.gov/contact>

Lots Going On This Month!

Check out the calendar on p. 7.

Oregon Finally Indicts Man for Q Violence

After over nine months, a member of the Proud Boys, a group endorsed by Republicans, has been arraigned for an attack on a 34-year-old man and calling him “fa**ot” during one of the Proud Boys marches in Portland. Until now, the Portland police claimed that “mutual combat” was legal and refused to take action, but Portland mayor Ted Wheeler demanded a law enforcement response to the assault. In fact, Oregon law bans fighting, even if both parties agree to hitting each other, and a jury instruction states that mutual combat is not a legal defense. The violent group from Vancouver (WA) frequently joins the far-right Patriot Prayer to hold violent protests in Portland.

The police leadership claimed they were not arresting anyone who the far-right groups beat up because of advice from the Multnomah County DA office that an Oregon statute called the beatings “mutual combat.” The latest publicity of Portland police refusing to arrest people for assault came on top of text messages from a Portland police officer to Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson, also from Vancouver (WA), with advice about how Gibson could help an associate avoid arrest for the assaults. Other repeated texts to Gibson from the police lieutenant in charge of containing protests detailed the movements of a group opposing Gibson’s far-right march and the level of police presence to expect at certain protests.

Classified by some as a hate group, the Proud Boys, a far-right neo-fascist organization, admits only men and promotes violence. Although it denies being white supremacist, the group focuses on “Western values”—meaning white supremacy. Because of its glorification of violence, the Southern Poverty Law Center calls it an “alt-right fight club.” Part of the initiation process is getting into a major fight “for the cause.”

Good Q News from around the World

British Columbia (Canada): A 14-year-old transgender boy can proceed with hormone replacement therapy despite his father’s opposition. The court also ruled that any attempts to stop treatment and using the wrong name or pronouns for the boy “shall be considered to be family violence” under the Family Law Act. Although the boy’s mother approves, the father plans to appeal.

The World: In the recent release of the World Happiness Report, nine of the top ten countries have laws protecting Q residents: Finland, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, New Zealand, Canada, and Austria. There are a few sour notes, however. Finland requires sterilization for transgender people before legally changing gender, but the challenged law may soon change. Switzerland has only civil partnerships for same-gender couples and prohibits joint adoption for them. The Netherlands, first to legalize marriage equality, still doesn’t have gender identity protections in the law although it has sexual orientation. Never in the top ten, the U.S. has dropped to 19th in the list of 156 countries, the lowest rating since the beginning of the report in 2012.

After **Ireland’s Prime Minister Leo Varadkar and his gay partner** breakfasted with homophobic VP Mike Pence, the PM pointed out that his story of being “judged by my political actions, not by my sexual orientation, my skin tone, gender, or religious beliefs” is possible in “every country where freedom and liberty are cherished.” Varadkar added, “We are, after all, all God’s children.”

Politics on Our Side

An excellent website that tracks all current Q bills in the United States. <https://www.freedomforallamericans.org/2019-legislative-tracker/>

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) is hosting a forum only about Q rights with Democratic presidential candidates on October 10, 2019, at UCLA. Participants must have at least one-percent support in three different national polls and receive donations from over 65,000 in 20 different states.

New York City: The Administration for Child Services (ACS) has exonerated Desmond Napoles' family after over 200 complaints about allowing him to perform in drag. The 11-year-old self-identified gay performer has been attending Pride parades and drag events for almost four years and appeared in a New York gay bar last December. Performing helps Desmond manage his autism symptoms, and his social media is only a way to connect with other young drag fans.

San Antonio (TX): By a 6-4 vote, the city council told Chick-fil-A that it could not have its planned airport concession location after the publicity about the company donating \$1.8 million to anti-Q organizations. The corporation broke last year's promise to stop donations to "offensive" causes and keeps its zero rating from the Human Rights Campaign. Chick-fil-A is happy to take money from Q customers but stays silent about whether they will employ them.

Colorado: After several years, the state senate has passed a bill banning state-licensed mental health professionals from practicing conversion therapy on minors with three Republicans joining the new Democratic majority. The bill returns to the state house to coordinate language with the bill earlier passed in that chamber. It also describes advertising

conversion therapy as a "deceptive trade practice" under the Colorado Consumer Protection Act. The gay governor, Jared Polis, has pledged to ban conversion therapy. Colorado will become the 16th state with this ban.

Iowa: The state Supreme Court struck down the state's ban on Medicaid coverage for gender transition surgery because a 2007 law added gender identity to protected characteristics. After two transgender people sued Wisconsin, a federal judge ordered that Medicaid provide for their transition surgery.

Indiana: VP Mike Pence's state, once known as the poster state of bigotry, is issuing gender neutral driver's licenses and state ID cards that use "X" for nonbinary instead of "M" or "F." The change matches recommendations by the American Academy of Motor Vehicle Administrators recommendations.

Michigan: Faith-based adoption agencies in the state may no longer turn away same-gender couples, according to a court settlement. AG Dana Nessel has pronounced the anti-Q practice "illegal." The first Q person elected to a statewide office, Nessel has two children with her wife, Alanna Maguire. Anti-Q organizations Bethany Christian Services and Catholic Charities place 12 percent of adoptions and foster care in Michigan. Nine states still have laws that permit agencies the right to discriminate against same-gender couples: Alabama, Kansas, Mississippi, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, and Virginia. Arkansas and Tennessee have pending legislation to join the Q-discrimination.



News Bits

The NAACP, the country's oldest black civil rights organization, **publicly endorsed the Equality Act**, a federal Q anti-discrimination bill, reintroduced by Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI). The bill modifies the 1964 Civil Rights Act to add "sexual orientation" and "gender identity" to the list of protected classes.

The Westboro Baptist Church attacked Virginia state Delegate Danica Roem, the first openly transgender state representative in the U.S., by attempts to picket in the state on March 11. **Over 800 donors from all 50 states donated \$30,000 to her next campaign within the first week** after Westboro announced its protest. Roem's response to Westboro: "Meh."

Heavy metal fans used kazoos to drown out the protest. <https://twitter.com/nowthisnews/status/1109855644214091776>

Rights by zip codes: the **best—and worst—places** for Q people to live in the U.S. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/08/25/opinion/sunday/worst-and-best-places-to-be-gay.html>

A new study, this one from Germany, concluded that "gender surgery **significantly improves quality of life** for the majority of patients"—75 percent of them to be specific. The research involved 158 transgender female patient who received surgery between 1995 and 2015.

Religions Oppose Q Discrimination

Sixty-nine percent of people believe that Q discrimination should be illegal, and every religious demographic in the U.S. except white evangelicals support Q-inclusive non-discrimination laws. Only 25 percent of white evangelical seniors don't believe in discriminating against Q People. Other demographics supporting Q nondiscrimination:

- ◆ 54 percent of evangelicals
- ◆ 53 percent of Jehovah's Witnesses
- ◆ 70 percent of Mormons
- ◆ 68 percent of non-white Catholics
- ◆ 65 percent of black Protestants
- ◆ 60 percent of Muslims
- ◆ 59 percent of Orthodox Christians
- ◆ 73 percent of Hispanic Catholics

St. Ann Catholic Church (Prairie Village, MO) refused to accept the child of a same-gender couple because the child would suffer "conflict" between the school's homophobia and the Q-positive home. In response, almost 1,000 people signed a petition, half of them members of St. Ann, asking that the child be admitted to the school. The letter adds that in admitting other children, the school has not followed Catholic teachings in "vasectomy, IVF, divorce, and remarriage without approved annulment."

The Mormon Church has ruled that a "transsexual operation" can result in discipline, but it has no guideline for "top surgery," the removal of breasts. The Church also appears to lack guidelines about hormone therapy and dressing according to gender. In 2015, trans Mormons in Utah formed a support group and attend Q pride parades.

California ACLU organizations are suing St. Joseph Health Northern California for withholding medical care for Oliver Knight, a transgender patient scheduled to receive a hysterectomy. Minutes before the scheduled surgery, the hospital canceled the procedure and would not reschedule it on religious grounds. An ACLU attorney said, "Gender affirming care is lifesaving and medically necessary." Later, Knight was able to have the surgery farther away from his home and family. The hospital's owner operates 51 hospitals with over 25,000 physicians. This case caused the launch of the All Care Everywhere campaign to ensure all Californians get the health care they need.

More News from the United States



Missouri: The state Supreme Court has ruled that a trans student can sue for discrimination after he was denied use of his high school's locker room and restrooms in accord with his gender identity. R.J. Appleberry began his transition ten years ago when he was in the fourth grade. His birth certificate was updated, he was listed as male in the school records, and he played school sports with other male athletes. Blue Springs School District said they drew the line at

"changing clothes." The en banc ruling reverses a circuit court decision denying Appleberry's law suit. The U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri ruled, however, that a lesbian couple Bev Nance and Mary Walsh may not sue for discrimination after a retirement community refused them housing because they were married. The judge cited the 8th Circuit Court ruling that "Title VII does not prohibit discrimination against homosexuals." Missouri is one of 29 states without Q protections for housing, employment, and public accommodations.

South Carolina: Hannah Robinson is suing the Anderson Mill Elementary School for rejecting her fourth-grade daughter's Q essay as "not acceptable" in an assignment for a book "to society" that would be given to parents. In her essay, the girl, whose grandfather is Q, wrote that "in the world people can choose who they want." The principal told the girl to write a generic essay about bullying in order to not "make other parents upset." Robinson said the principal told her that it was "not age-appropriate to discuss transgenders, lesbians, and drag queens outside of the home." The lawsuit claims that her daughter's right to free speech has been violated and that the incident caused emotional distress that left her daughter afraid of her principal.

Utah: After Republicans were able to add "political expression" to a hate crimes bill, they passed it with the inclusion of LGBTQ as a protected class. The bill passed 64-9 in the House and moves on to the Senate.

Vermont: After Indiana, Vermont becomes the tenth state providing gender-neutral driver's licenses and identification cards to its residents, joining Arkansas, California, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

Puerto Rico: Gov. Ricardo Rosselló has promised to sign an executive order banning conversion therapy for minors but didn't say when.

United States: The U.S. Supreme Court reversed an Alabama court by unanimously agreeing to recognize a lesbian couple's legal adoption of a child in Georgia. The couple has separated, and the one who gave birth to three children argued that Georgia was wrong in granting joint custody to her former partner. Justices required that Alabama must give "full faith and credit" to another state's court decision. Thirty states grant "second-parent adoptions" to same-gender couples through laws or court rulings. Hundreds of thousands of adoptions have been granted since the mid-1980s, and approximately 65,000 adopted children live with a lesbian or gay parent.

United States: By not hearing an appeal from a Hawaii B&B, the high court ended a 12-year-old lawsuit. A lesbian couple won their suit after they were turned away from the lodging because of their sexual orientation. The decision may affirm non-discrimination laws against Q people despite "religious freedom" claims.

People Who Make a Difference



Jay Qualls, a celebrity cake designer who has worked with Martha Stewart, has offered to prepare a cake for Brandi Ray and Michele Schmidt after they were turned away from Susie's Sweets in Dickson County (TN) while trying to order a wedding cake. Two years ago, Montgomery Bell Park's Cumberland Presbyterian Church refused to host Qualls' wedding to another man.

At the world's first Arab-European Union summit, **Xavier Bettel**, Luxembourg's gay prime minister (right), called out leaders of countries that ban homosexuality and denounced anti-Q laws and violence. Attendees banning homosexuality included Algeria, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia, Syria, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates. Three countries attending—Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Yemen—have the death penalty for Q people. The conference was in Egypt where Q people can be arrested under indecency laws, and the president supports “persecution of gays and trans people as a political strategy.” Arab League leaders demanded that freedom of expression be eliminated from the summit's declaration.



Lori Lightfoot (right), a lawyer and former federal prosecutor, faces a run-off for mayor of Chicago after receiving the largest percentage of votes in February. She will oppose Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle on April 2. Lightfoot is married to Amy Eshleman, and they have one daughter. A recent poll shows Lightfoot favored to win.



Charlie Baum, a transgender senior at Forsyth Central High School near Atlanta (GA) was bullied for years, sometimes with “death threats and plenty of public humiliation.” Now she has been named homecoming queen. She wrote, “This win, to me, represents a more progressive and accepting future in one of the most conservative and backwards counties in Georgia.”

PFLAG Opportunities

The PFLAG Board Meeting on March 8 welcomed new board member Tracey Cummings, director of My Sisters Place in Lincoln County. Current Board members include Lisa Norton, Debbie Spicer, Bruce Fairman, Claire Hall, Dawna McLain, Jeanne St John, and Waverly Sudborough (OCCC). New Board member Amy Shumate will join the Board at its May retreat.

Trans Visibility Day will be celebrated in April with a film hosted by PFLAG and the Newport GSA. The community is invited to attend. Date/time/location to be determined.

April 10 PFLAG Meeting will focus on issues of Sexual Assault as applied to the Q community. Lisa Norton, PFLAG Board member and Ph.D. candidate, will lead the session.

The PFLAG Board Retreat on May 4 will review the mission of PFLAG OCC and its current priorities and projects to make course corrections for the coming year.

Trans Support Group held its first meeting on Feb. 25 with over 20 in attendance for excellent support and sharing of resources. The meetings are held on 4th Wed. from 6-7:30pm at St. Stephen's in Newport. Marci Frederick and Claire Hall lead this new group.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

April 5: Family Acceptance Project Training—Eugene

April 9, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBT & Allies Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie's Beachside Grill, Newport

April 10, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting, Sexual Assault & the Q Community —St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

April 14, 11:00 am: Out Oregon Coast Breakfast at Newport Café—Newport

April 24, 6:00-7:30: Trans Support Group—St. Stephens, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

April 24, 6:00 pm: Coastal Queers & Peers Game Night and Socializing—Café Mundo, Newport

April 28, 11:00 am: OUT OR Women at Nana's for Lunch—NW 3rd and Coast Streets, Newport

April 30: Deadline for scholarship applications. See www.occpflag.org for application forms or contact pflagocc@gmail.com

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 pflagocc@gmail.com for an application.

Media Matters: Q Stars at the Oscars

Green Book, about gay black pianist Don Shirley, won Best Picture and Best Original Screenplay. **Mahershala Ali**, who played Shirley, won Actor in a Supporting Role.

Rami Malek won Actor in a Leading Role for his portrayal of Freddie Mercury in **Bohemian Rhapsody**, which credited gay Bryan Singer as director although he was fired for sexual misconduct before the filming finished. The movie also took Best Sound Editing, Sound Mixing, and Film Editing.



Olivia Colman won the award for Actress in a Leading Role in **The Favourite**, an historical film about Queen Anne showing some of her relationships with women.

Billy Porter, Tony winner for **Kinky Boots** who now stars in the television series **Pose**, flaunted his gender-fluid style in a Christian Siriano tuxedo gown.

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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