

STARR NEWSLETTER

PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS ALLIED WITH THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

www.pflagLA.org

President's Message

June 10th: Join Us in West Hollywood for the Gay Pride Parade

The LA Pride/Christopher Street West Pride Parade is returning to West Hollywood, and PFLAG Los Angeles will be marching for the 41st year. The theme of the parade is #JUSTBE. The best way to celebrate is to join our contingent, walking the route with fellow PFLAGers and supporters, with old friends and new.

The theme of the parade suggests that we all come as our authentic selves, so artists get out your poster board and bring a sign. Moms and Dads and Siblings and Grandparents bring your hugs and smiles. LGBTQ persons bring your pride. Marchers wear your red T-shirts (with the PFLAG Los Angeles logo if you can). And everybody bring a hat, sunscreen and lots of water.

As for the what, when and where, check out our website for start time, current news and last minute updates. We won't receive information about our meeting location until almost parade time. We'll update the website as soon as information comes to us. Suggestions for parking (carpool if you can) and other logistics are on the website. On June 10th, parade volunteers can help you find our location.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all there, celebrating the wonderful, exuberant, unquenchable LGBTQ community.

What Does the Board Do?

In every newsletter, you will find a list of board members. Have you ever wondered what our board does? Non-profits have many different kinds of boards: fund raising boards, advisory boards, and working boards to name a few. Our board is a working board, and the members do a lot!

There would be no PFLAG Los Angeles without them. Here is a description of how they make our chapter work. It's not comprehensive – many new things crop up every week that require board and officer attention – but it shows their dedication.

Some board members are meeting organizers: they set up, arrange literature materials, greet attendees, facilitate support groups, maintain contact lists, liaison with the host site, and make this core service available every month. Among them are Lucy Benji T and Blair Lewis (Gender Focus), Gizella Czene and Juan Castillo Alvarado (three PFLAG en Espanol meetings), Mariette and Sandy Sawchuk, and Karen and Barry Mason (Westwood meeting).

Our Speakers Bureau relies heavily on the administrative work of the Speakers Bureau Coordinator, Melanie Wolo, and the Speakers Bureau Trainer Coordinator (and previous Coordinator and Speaker) Liz Mullen. These leaders are on the board and serve as liaison to our critically important speakers.

Serving as our webmaster and graphic designer is York Knowlton, who also handles the application process for the Pride Parade and keeps our phone helpline working. He is instrumental in the production of our popular educational pamphlets, which answer frequently asked questions for LGBTQ youth, parents and family members, transgender persons and their *(continued on next page)*

SUPPORT EDUCATION ADVOCACY

Presidents Message - continued families, and persons dealing with religious issues. They are handed out free of charge.

Stuart Huggins is our Vice President and program chairman. He is in charge of developing educational programs and speakers for the Westwood meeting. Among the many exceptional people he has booked are George Takei, late city council member Bill Rosendahl, Betty DeGeneres, and Mel White, author of Stanger at the Gate and founder of Soulforce.

You are reading this newsletter right now because of Chris Haiss, our newsletter editor, who has served in this position for almost 18 years! He writes features, compiles information, and edits texts. He created our TransAction page, which features news and information particularly relevant to our transgender and non-binary readers. He solicits personal experiences for the "Our Stories" column. He is interested in taking a breather, so if any of you editors would like to take over for a while, let me know at president@pflagla.org.

Among our most important activities of the year is Models of Pride, one of the largest free youth conferences in the world, which also hosts workshops for parents. Most of our board and many members work on that day – tabling at the resource fair, serving on panels, presenting workshops for youth and parents, introducing participants to PFLAG, and running an evening PFLAG meeting. Special mention goes to Polly Kim and Melanie Woloz who have served with me on the MOP Steering Committee. PFLAG board members are at the venue from 7:00 am to 8:30 pm. Also thanks to all the members of our Speakers Bureau who speak on these panels.

Longtime board member Maurie Davidson keeps us in touch with the National PFLAG organization and connects us to other LGBTQ serving organizations.

Finally our officers: Treasurer Karen Mason, Assistant Treasurer York Knowlton, Vice President Stuart Huggins, and Secretary Steve Krantz provide the mundane but essential services of handling donations, keeping accounts, producing accurate minutes of our meetings, maintaining member and donor lists, writing thank-you notes to donors, and meeting our obligations to PFLAG National and the IRS!

To all of them, I extend my personal thanks. You make the job of being president both doable and happy. I invite all you readers to attend a board meeting and learn how you might help this amazing organization. If you are interested in attending, send an email to president@pflagla.org, and I'll let you know when we meet. **END**

Our Stories

Interview with Gwen Everman

[Gwen's family was covered in Marisa Gerber's article "Transgender rights: Los Angeles families complain of insensitive treatment during court hearings"]

Melissa came out at age 13, almost 14.

I was on a business trip out of town when my husband called me. He found a skirt in the laundry and asked her about that. He first assumed that she had a girl over. Because, up until that point, she was fairly stereotypically male presenting with pretty stereotypical male interests. She was definitely into cars and mechanics. So it was a bit of a surprise. Huge surprise, I should say. Anyway, so he asked her and she said she was transgender.

I knew about PFLAG. PFLAG was my first stop. I knew that PFLAG was out there. I went online and found your number. That night when I talked to you – it was just so incredibly helpful. It just felt like 'OK. This is gonna be OK. I can do this.'

(continued on next page)

**PLEASE
SUPPORT
OUR
WORK!**

As an all-volunteer organization, our work is made possible only with the generous contributions of our donors. Your contributions support our monthly meetings, website, helplines, Speakers Bureau, and outreach to ethnic and faith communities. PFLAG Los Angeles is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and 100% of your donation supports our programs. When you make a donation of \$35 or more to PFLAG Los Angeles, \$15 of your donation goes to PFLAG National and makes you a member of PFLAG National as well.

Donate online at: www.pflagLA.org/join-donate

Our Stories - continued And then I did talk to her the next day. And my husband and I both told her that we loved her and whatever she wanted to do we support her. But then she didn't want to do anything for a while.

Two months later, we finally sat her down and asked if she would like us to call her Melissa, because we had found out that she's been using that name on social media, and if she'd like us to use that name and female pronouns. That's when she told us yes. That was about a month before she turned 14. And it was two days before school started! I said 'OK, do you want to be out at school?' But she did not at that time.

And we were very open with friends and family. We were actually heading to a family reunion right after that too. So we told all of the extended family, which is fine, because we asked her 'When we go to the family reunion, what would you like people to call you?' And she said 'Melissa.' So we gave everybody a heads-up. Everybody was on board. Actually, most people were on board. And even my cousin who is a priest wasn't really worried about that. He said 'Can I tell her how proud I am of her?' And I said 'Yes, that would be great. I'm sure she would love that.' It was an amazing experience. We have been very very lucky.

So we walk in - it's the principal and the head of the school waiting for us. The principal had already printed out the educational support plan.

My husband's mom and sister were not accepting at first, but because we planned to see them a couple of months after she came out, he wrote them a letter and he said this is what's going on, we expect you to respect it, and if you're not ready to, then we'll put off our trip and you just let us know when you're ready. So, then they decided to try to be respectful and they were not very happy about it at first. But they are pretty good now. My mother-in-law even apologized for not finding a granddaughter card for Easter.

So, for almost a full semester she wasn't ready to come out at school. And it was REALLY difficult to have to hear her birth name and male pronouns at school when we had already transitioned at home.

She had told her friends, she told friends in the neighborhood, but not at her school. She goes to a private school. She wanted to tell her friends at school and she was dragging her feet and dragging her feet and finally I realized she's ready to tell her friends. So I said 'Do you want me to call your friends' parents and I will tell them?' She's 14. I like her to be independent, but I felt like this is huge. I've got to help her. It's OK to give her more support in this situation.

So I spent a Saturday afternoon calling all the parents and — you know what — it was a really good experience for me, because they made me realize HOW difficult it is for ANYBODY who's LGBT to come out to other people. One mom was kind of like 'Oh, OK. I gotta go now.' But most of them were like 'Oh, thank you for telling us. Of course, we support you.' Actually, one of them said 'She did tell my kid.' One or two parents were like 'Oh, that's interesting, because this thing had happened in our house. And I didn't know. I didn't really think about it. But now that I know this, it fits together.'

Before her coming-out at school, I asked for a meeting with the principal. He had asked 'What's this about?' and I told him. So, before I went to talk to them - because it is a private school - I checked to see what policies they have to follow and all of that. I pulled the LAUSD policies on transgender students, which are very good by the way, and I looked up Gender Spectrum's guide for schools and pulled up the educational support plan, and I brought that all with me to the meeting. And our daughter's therapist Caroline Carter from the Los Angeles Gender Center offered to come to the school and speak to the staff and faculty. So we walk in — it's the principal and the head of the school waiting for us. The principal had already printed out the educational support plan. He had found it on his own. And it was great. Because the head of the school said 'Oh, this is very interesting. I just ordered gender neutral placards for the bathrooms. We're gonna switch some of them to gender neutral.' I was so lucky!

Then Melissa came out at school, and we were out everywhere. That was such a huge relief. Such a huge relief. And just this past school year, she and another kid did start a Gay Straight Alliance at her school.

Melissa doesn't label herself. First, she really identified as female. And recently she said she feels that she's floating between the two and *(continued on next page)*

Then Melissa came out at school, and we were out everywhere. That was such a huge relief. Such a huge relief.

Our Stories - continued she's happiest when people can't tell if she's a girl or a boy. But she still would prefer to use female pronouns since she leans toward female a little more.

She was really into sports. But, then again, so what? My dad HATED sports. It's really not an issue for me. Stereotypically, she was into trains and cars. For a long time she wanted to be a mechanic. I'm not sure she still does. But there are female mechanics. That's what my husband said. And he said 'Sweetie, you just keep smashing those stereotypes.' So, thankfully, it has gone overall really well. But I will say what she said is that she always thought that something was a little different. She didn't know what it was until she hit puberty. And I think that's when she started really to feel uncomfortable with who she was. And that's when she decided to transition. She did say she knew something was up. The rest of us were clueless.

I think she did a fair amount of Internet research before she told us. That's one case where you're like 'Thank god for the Internet!' Because I do think she was very afraid to tell us.

And then I remember one time right at the beginning, one of her friends had a hard time at first. The parents were very supportive, but the kid was not. Someone she's been friends with for a long time. They are very fine now. They are still best friends. But he was not very supportive and kept calling her by her birth name. And our other kid wanted to have this kid over to the house cause they all hang out together. And I said 'He's not welcome here until he can respect you. Anybody who comes into this house has to respect you. Absolutely. Or he's out.' And she looked at me and said 'Really, mom?' Like 'Yeah, really.' I can tell that that meant so much to her. But that she was surprised. And she said 'Well, I don't know if dad feels the same way.' And I said 'Yes, he does.' So, even somebody who has gotten all this affirmation still is feeling insecure. That is heartbreaking. But then I think about how insecure teens are and add that on top of it.

It's interesting. She won't go to support group meetings. She went to Camp Laurel last summer. I think she really liked it, but, largely, she doesn't want to be set up in those

kinds of situations. She has on her own found some trans friends and that's been great. She doesn't want to do any advocacy. She agreed to that newspaper article in the LA Times that she did. Then, after that newspaper article, we got several other requests and she said no.

People asked us 'Were you afraid to do it?' One of my friends said 'I'm worried about you. I don't want you to do it.' I said 'No. We call the police. Look, I'm not gonna not do this. I'm not gonna live my life in fear.' I mean, how else are we gonna change things? I would never do anything to jeopardize my daughter's safety, but I also believe there are all kinds of things that can happen in your life.

Now, after the article came out, we got some hateful messages on Facebook. My husband and I both got some very negative messages. Some based on religion. To use religion as an excuse for that kind of hate – I know plenty of people who are religious who are very accepting. It's not about religion. It's about hate. I always have used the term homophobia or transphobia. But now I feel like no, it's not a phobia. You just don't like this. You're not afraid of it. You just don't like it. I'd like to see a different term.

But we suspected that might happen. I had heard some horror stories from other families who have gone public. So I knew that we potentially were taking a risk. Because it's LA I wasn't too worried about it. But I know families who have been victims of vandalism, physical violence, certainly bullying and all of that. And we discussed that before we decided to do it. We decided it was worth it because I think we all felt like we're gonna make that judge be accountable for his actions. In my opinion it was an egregious abuse of his power. And he kept us in there for almost an hour. And our daughter fainted in the middle. Then, when I started networking with people, when I shared our experience, they were 'Oh yeah, that happened to us, too.'

Melissa was able to get through the court hearing. She did say something very good to the judge. Because he said 'You don't look like a girl to me. You're wearing boy's clothes.' And she said 'Clothing doesn't have a gender.' Then we got out of the courtroom and I started cursing and cursing – I just was so so mad. I was mad in the courtroom.

But when we got out of this room I think that that was when Melissa felt a little bit better. 'Cause when we were in the courtroom she didn't know how we felt. We were all just trying to keep our composure. I think we knew it would be a little bit of an emotional day. We weren't sure. We thought it would go much better. We thought we'd be going out to lunch to celebrate. So we did ask her 'Do you want to go out to lunch?' and she said 'No.' We came home and she basically spent the rest of the day in her room.

Thankfully, I was raised in a fairly liberal household. I remember I had an Erector set. At that time, which was in the early 70s, they didn't have any pictures of girls on them outside on the box. And I was so angry. But it was a boy toy. You know. My parents were like 'No. It doesn't matter. Whatever.'

I also feel, if I were a teacher in jeans, nobody's gonna accuse me of being anything. I can do that. That's what I don't understand. I could have been wearing the same exact outfit as my daughter was that day and the judge certainly would not tell ME that I look like a boy or that I am wearing boy's clothes. Even if I was. It's so ridiculous.

I have gay and lesbian friends. I do not have any trans friends. But I'm sure I had met trans people where I wasn't aware of it. So it was something completely unfamiliar to me in that sense. I mean, I knew what it was, I accepted it, of course, I supported trans rights. Why wouldn't you? But it wasn't something I really experienced in my personal life. Up until now. I know other parents who have said this – I feel like it has made me a better person to go through this experience. Because I feel like I am able to empathize with other people more than I used to. And I consider that a real gift, honestly. I feel like I have such a different perspective. And even though I've always felt very liberal and very much an ally, I just didn't get it. I mean, now I feel like I get it. And I'm not even sure if I really get it. But I get it a little more than I did. That's for sure.

I feel like you either go about your interactions with other people with an open heart and an open mind or you don't. Because it has nothing to do with religion. It has nothing to do with really even how you were raised. I've seen so many families from different backgrounds that are able to accept this and are able to be OK with it. I would say, think about this would be someone you love. And if you can still say that you would shut that person out then there really is no hope for you. 'Cause I do think that some people, some of

those people, if they actually had a trans person in their family they might change their mind. 'Cause people do come around. 'Cause they realize it doesn't matter.

What I usually tell people, because I do see a lot of new people on our Facebook support group, first of all, I tell them find PFLAG. And then I tell them to remember that your child is the same person that they have always been. Always. Nothing changed. Nothing. Keep telling yourself that. And even though it feels overwhelming, it's gonna get better. Ask your child about their preferred name and pronouns, and start using it everywhere immediately. Change it in your phone, write it down. You know, I don't want to be unforgiving. I know people make mistakes. But there is no reason why you can't switch over pretty quickly. If you think you're gonna make a mistake don't use their name for the first little bit. But when you look at your kid, when you say that preferred name and you look at them, you are gonna see the happiest kid you've seen in a long time. It's so important for them to know that you are there for them. And just tell them you love them no matter what.

I do think using that name – you have to switch over. And it DOES feel weird at first. It feels really weird. And you loved that name YOU picked for your child. You loved it. So, yes, it felt very overwhelming for the first couple of months. It was about three months for me. For my husband it took a little longer. And even though we were supportive, it just felt overwhelming. It felt so overwhelming. It felt like that's all I thought about all the time. And I remember at one point saying to my husband 'Hey, I only thought about it 90 percent of the time today.' And we were like 'Yeah, progress!'

I see parents that are struggling a lot. I will talk to parents who I feel like are gonna hear what I'm saying. I'm not trying to make myself out to be some expert on this by any means. But I do think it's important for parents to talk to each other and try to help each other. And I do know that we've been in this for a while. I feel like hopefully I am able to help a few people at least to think about it in a different way.

Now I look back and I'm like, I don't know why did it consume so much thought? But it really, really did. And I felt like I was on the verge of tears all the time. And I know it would pass. I did know that. But it seemed very overwhelming at first. I told myself at the beginning, and I told my husband too, 'Remember, this story will have a happy ending. We're gonna get through this. It's gonna be OK.' **END**

We Need YOUR Stories!

We all have a PFLAG story to share. Some are about growth while others are painful and heart-breaking. Stories of real peoples' lives can be teaching moments to some and life-savers to others.

We encourage you to share YOUR story. The focus should be on your personal story as it relates to the coming-out of an LGBTQ family member/loved one. If you prefer, we can interview you over the phone and write the story for you! All stories are welcome and submissions are subject to editing. By submitting your story you give PFLAG permission to publish it in our newsletter, on our website or other media to promote PFLAG. If requested, your name will not be published.

Please e-mail your story, request to be interviewed, or any questions to NewsletterEditor@pflagLA.org

Noteworthy Posts

Chris Tompkins: April 10, 2018

My Response to Perez Hilton Preferring His Son to Not Be Gay.

A friend recently shared an article with me about Perez Hilton saying he would prefer it if his five year old son wasn't gay. Hearing an openly gay parent say something like that makes me sad and frustrated. It also reminds me that just because we're gay or lesbian, it doesn't mean we can't be homophobic or pass along homophobic beliefs. Being a gay parent doesn't automatically exclude us from teaching homophobia.

Growing up in a heteronormative society, it's not possible to completely escape fragments of homophobic beliefs from unconsciously seeping inside. That's the conscious inner work required of a person who is gay or lesbian, to look within our own life and see if it's possible we're teaching homophobia to future generations.

As an uncle, someone who works with youth, and also a gay man who has worked to heal his own homophobia, I'd like to address why I think it's harmful for Perez, or any parent, to prefer their child be a certain way. Especially when it comes to having a preference over a child's sexuality, it can be particularly harmful.

The first reason is that it implies being gay or lesbian is a choice. Being gay or lesbian is no more a choice than being right or left handed. Some people are born right handed and some left handed, but it's not a choice. In fact, if we were to try and remember how we made the choice to start using our dominant hand, we couldn't. It's just something inherent in who we are.

The second is that it doesn't address the root of the concern. I understand not wanting a child to experience hardship or challenge, but when we say we would prefer our child to be straight because we're afraid of how the world will treat them, blame is placed on LGBTQ children and does nothing to change why they're statistically more at risk for bullying and abuse. That's like saying we'd prefer to not ever speak up for what we believe is right because we fear how people would respond.

The third and most damaging reason I think it's problematic for a parent to say they would prefer it if their son wasn't gay is that it sends the message being gay is less than and not to be revered. It also teaches homophobia. Until we live in a world where the message to young people that being gay or lesbian isn't something to fear, the closet will continue to exist – and the closet is a hotbed for shame.

Shame is one of the most detrimental human emotions to have and is highly correlated [\(continued on next page\)](#)

Spreading the Word

in the community through our
Speakers Bureau engagements/
education, activism & advocacy

USC's School of Social Work:

Christie Carney, Alejandro Garcia,
Rebecca Hames, Cara O'Donnell,
and Rudy Perez

Arleta High School: Cathy Arkfeld,
Alejandro Garcia, Steve Krantz,
Barry Mason, Liz Mullen,
Cara O'Donnell, and Sylvia Weisenberg.

Museum of Tolerance:

Jehanne Eily, Alison Kellman,
Steve Krantz, Chris Tompkins,
and Sylvia Weisenberg.

**California State University,
Northridge:** Rebecca Hames,
Liz Mullen, Margie Mullen,
and Barry Mason.

Noteworthy Posts - continued with suicide. According to the Trevor Project, there has been a rise in suicide among 10-14 year old lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth. The Trevor Project, a crisis intervention and suicide prevention organization, as wonderful a group as they are, unfortunately exists because there are LGBTQ children who think it's not okay to be who they are and would be willing to take their own life rather than be themselves.

Although same-sex marriage is legally recognized in 26 countries and transgender rights have become an international conversation, homophobia still exists and it continues to perpetuate the closet and feed shame within families. Recent research shows that among LGBTQ youth, addiction, suicide, and homelessness are at an all-time high. Even if we support LGBTQ friends and family members, we grow up in the same society, learn the same religions, and pick up the same subconscious programming about what it means to be a man, a woman, gay, or straight. Even the most accepting families can unintentionally pass along fragments of homophobic and heteronormative messaging. If such issues are left unexplored and uncommunicated, they can negatively impact how we parent.

Saying we prefer a child to not be gay perpetuates shame and the closet. Creating allies and a world where closets don't exist happens one child at a time, and it begins with each of us and what we consciously or subconsciously teach. In an increasingly more diverse and connected planet, children need to be taught how to experience acceptance of others and acceptance of self – and acceptance is taught just as easily as intolerance.

It's not enough to provide passive social support for LGBTQ youth, we have to go a step further and help normalize being LGBTQ among new generations. For every youth

who is out, there are more in the closet who think they are alone or fear being themselves.

What's more is that Perez has already made the assumption his five year old son isn't gay. If we want to be a part of the solution and help create a world where all children are normal and natural, we have to challenge the dominant heteronormative worldview and not make assumptions about our children's identities. We also have to consciously create a safe space to allow children to be who they are.

Regardless of his son's sexuality, by saying he would prefer it if his son wasn't gay, Perez is sending the subtle message that being straight is somehow superior to being LGBTQ.

When we prefer a child to be a certain way, we're automatically making the ones who aren't that way wrong. A more empowering and inclusive parenting approach would be to explore why we have certain preferences and whether we're willing to challenge them before they're passed down.

My hope is to help shine a light on the more nuanced layers of homophobia that can continue to harm children, not to condemn Perez for how he raises his. I had always considered myself a good LGBTQ advocate, working hard to create change in the world. It wasn't until I became an uncle did I realize the pervasiveness of homophobia and the deeper I had to go into my own life to uncover the subtle ways in which it continued to show up in my family.

As more gay men step into the role of fatherhood, it's vitally important for each of us to do the conscious inner work to heal any homophobia within ourselves so that we don't teach it to our children. **END**

We would love your support!

Your everyday purchases or gifts can help PFLAG Los Angeles expand its mission of support, education, and advocacy.

Go to smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates to PFLAG Los Angeles



[http://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-3707419](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/95-3707419)

Transgender Rights in the Workplace

The California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) makes specified employment practices unlawful. Senate Bill 396, which was signed into law by Governor Brown on October 15, 2017, requires California employers with 5 or more employees to post "Transgender Rights in the Workplace" in a prominent and accessible location. Developed by the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH), "Transgender Rights in the Workplace" can be obtained as a stand-alone poster in English or Spanish. The new information is also included in the November 2017 version of the poster "2018 California and Federal Employment Notices". You can find more information at www.dfeh.ca.gov under Resources.

TransMilitary

This documentary is the 2018 SXSW Audience Award-winning feature film debut by Gabriel Silverman & Fiona Dawson. TransMilitary follows their Emmy-nominated short film Transgender, at War and in Love.

Around 15,500 transgender people serve in the U.S. military (notably the largest transgender employer in the U.S.), where they must conceal their gender identity because military policies ban their service. TransMilitary chronicles the lives of four individuals (Senior Airman Logan Ireland, Corporal Laila Villanueva, Captain Jennifer Peace & First Lieutenant El Cook) defending their country's freedom while fighting for their own. They put their careers and their families' livelihoods on the line by coming out as transgender to top brass officials in the Pentagon in hopes of attaining the equal right to serve. [www.transmilitary.org]

Are you #ACApositive?

This April, Transgender Law Center's Positively Trans project launched #ACApositive to shift the conversation about health care and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) towards a focus on the life-or-death stakes for transgender people living with HIV. The #ACApositive campaign seeks to amplify the experiences and voices of transgender people of color living with HIV in federal health care policy.

Cecilia Chung, Senior Director of Strategic Projects: We believe that nobody should be turned away from care, with their health and lives put at risk, because of who they are. Yet 44 percent of transgender people living with HIV surveyed by Positively Trans have faced discrimination in health care because of their gender identity. 41 percent have gone six months or more without medical care at some point since their HIV diagnosis.

To find out more about #ACApositive, please go to www.transgenderlawcenter.org/acapositive

New Hampshire Makes History!

On May 2, the New Hampshire Senate passed HB 1319, legislation that would update the state's laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing and public spaces to explicitly include the state's transgender residents. HB 1319 was approved by a bipartisan vote of 14-10 and now heads to the Governor's desk for his signature. The legislation passed the New Hampshire House with strong bipartisan support in March of this year. This victory marks the first statewide proactive win on LGBTQ rights in any state since 2016. Republican Governor Chris Sununu is expected to sign HB 1319 into law in the coming weeks. New Hampshire will become the 19th state in the country - and final state in New England - to explicitly provide comprehensive non-discrimination protections to LGBTQ people. [From Human Rights Campaign www.hrc.org]

Anchorage Voters Defeat Anti-Trans Bathroom Bill

In April, voters in Anchorage, Alaska defeated Proposition 1 (Access to Public Bathrooms and Locker Rooms Based on Sex at Birth), a measure that was put on the ballot by Alaska Family Action. The vote was 52.64% against it.

According to BallotPedia, Proposition 1 was designed to prohibit any individual from using a restroom or locker room designated for a gender that does not correspond with the sex assigned on the individual's birth certificate. [www.ballotpedia.org] **END**

Quote - Unquote

"To love America is to love all Americans,
and that includes transgender individuals."

— New Hampshire Republican Rep. Brian Stone
(who voted yes on HB1319 and said that rights aren't
dependent on other people's subjective feelings)

PFLAG Los Angeles is an all volunteer, non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization run by parents, family members, LGBTQ persons and their friends. Each of us came for help, found support, and joined the organization to assist others on their journey to acceptance. Our chapter, together with a group in New York City, founded the national PFLAG organization, which provides assistance to over 350 independent chapters nationwide.



P.O. Box 24565, Los Angeles, CA 90024
info@pflagLA.org 888.735.2488

OUR VISION: PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

OUR MISSION: By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision through:

Support for families, allies and people who are LGBTQ;

Education for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ;

Advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ.

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Newsletter Editor: Chris Haiss

Graphic Design: York Knowlton, imagine-Y.com

RESOURCES

Support Meetings

sponsored by PFLAG Los Angeles

Westwood*

Westwood United Methodist Church
10497 Wilshire Bl. LA 90024
3rd Wednesday of each month
7:30 - 10:00 pm / Free Parking

*Visit our website for upcoming speakers www.pflagLA.org

Gender Focus

Bienestar in Hollywood
4955 W. Sunset Blvd., LA 90027
2nd Thursday of each month
7:30 - 9:30 pm / Free Parking

South LA

Meetings suspended until further notice

Boyle Heights (Sólo Español)

Mi Centro - Boletín
553 S. Clarence St., Los Angeles, CA 90033
2nd Wednesday of each month
7:00 - 9:00 pm / Free Parking

East LA (Sólo Español)

Bienestar East LA
5326 East Beverly Blvd, Los Angeles 90022
3rd Thursday of each month
7:00 - 9:00 pm / Street Parking

San Fernando Valley (Sólo Español)

Bienestar Centro del Valle de San Fernando
8134 Van Nuys Blvd., #200, Panorama City 91402
4th Friday of each month
7:00 - 9:00 pm / Free Parking

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Contact Melanie Woloz at
SpeakersBureau@pflagla.org

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

PFLAG National
202.467.8180
www.pflag.org

PFLAG Los Angeles - English and Spanish
1.888.PFLAG 88 (1.888.735.2488)

The Trevor Project

24-hour suicide prevention line
866.488.7386
www.thetrevorproject.org

REMEMBER

When you no longer need PFLAG, that's when PFLAG NEEDS YOU!

www.pflagLA.org