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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.

Q is used as an inclusive term for the sexual minority LGBTQ+ spectrum.

Oregon Central Coast Chapter

December 2019

Taking Action

The West Lynn High School (OR) GSA organized a walk-out of about two dozen students to protest homophobic harassment by fellow classmates and the presence of a Chick-fil-A food truck at the school's football games. Another 25 parents and family members stood across the sidewalk in support. The school said it would reconsider vetting for future food vendors, but Chick-fil-A stays to vend food at football games. The company opposes same-gender marriage and has donated millions to anti-Q organizations because of its Christian "higher calling." England's first Chick-fil-A closed barely a week after it opened because of protesting.

Since the West Lynn protest, Chick-fil-A announced it will no longer give money to anti-Q organizations. Instead, the company will focus on education, homelessness and hunger. Although it still plans to donate to faith-based groups, Chick-fil-A will no longer give to Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) and the Salvation Army.

Conservatives are dismayed, and former Arkansas governor and presidential candidate Mike Huckabee bemoaned the decision as a betrayal. Both the FCA and Salvation Army openly oppose same-gender marriage and any "homosexual act." The Chick-fil-A Foundation plans to give \$9 million in 2020 to Junior Achievement USA, Covenant House International and local food banks. It has given more than \$6 million to a long list of charities so far this year.

GLADD asked for greater transparency in Chick-fil-A's ties to groups like Focus on the Family. Chick-fil-A may be trying to overcome its loss during the Chicken Wars when Pop-eyes' spicy fried chicken and brioche sandwich went viral.

**December 1:
World Aids Day**

Communities make the difference



Health Providers Not Permitted to Deny Services

Federal judges across the country—in New York, Spokane, and Santa Clara (CA)—have voided Trump’s rule allowing health-care providers to refuse any health care that they opposed on religious or moral grounds after over 20 states, municipalities, and health advocacy groups filed a lawsuit.

Trump’s rule permitted anyone involved in health care, including receptionists and accountants, to opt out of anything to which they say they object, even in emergencies or tangential involvement. It endangers lifesaving health care, especially for marginalized populations—transgender people, HIV-positive people, those taking PrEP, people seeking abortions or contraception. The rule disproportionately harmed specific groups such as Q patients. The rule would also cut federal health funding to employers and states that the administration thinks are not respecting health care workers’ religious freedom.

In the latest ruling, U.S. District Judge William Alsup of the Northern District of California wrote, “When a rule is so saturated with error, as here, there is no point in trying to sever the problematic provisions. The whole rule must go.”

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) lied about the number of complaints declaring “religious objections”—21 complaints instead of the 343 that HHS falsely claimed to justify its discriminatory rule. Over 80 percent of supposed conscience objection claims came from providers refusing to perform vaccinations, not abortions or gender-affirming treatment as HHS had claimed without providing any evidence. The [“conscience”] rule would have permitted health care workers to refuse treatment without notifying their employers and expands the employee classifications to bill staff and receptionists.

Rule Supports Discrimination Based on Q Identity, Sex, and Religion

In a devastating rule announced on November 1, the federal government will no longer enforce HHS regulations prohibiting discrimination in HHS-funded programs based on sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, and religion, therefore allowing programs receiving HHS grants to discriminate. Despite the Supreme Court legalizing marriage equality, these programs will not be required to recognize marriages of same-gender couples and may deny services to foster youth, refuse admission to shelters, deny children homes with prospective foster or adoptive families, shut out families seeking emergency services, etc. Groups receiving government funding will not be required to justify discrimination.

HHS awards over \$527 billion of taxpayer dollars in grants and contracts each year. The rule can eliminate funding for not only adoption, foster care, and family services but also for STI and HIV testing and prevention programs, Head Start programs, supportive housing services, and reproductive health care. Head Start and other federally-funded childcare facilities could refuse services to any children, and community meal programs such as Meals on Wheels for older adults could refuse to provide and deliver food to Jewish, Muslim, or Q people. Children could be kept in government care instead of being adopted by same-gender couples or families with different religious beliefs from the agencies such as Catholics. An unmarried woman could be denied services for her child, and an immigrant transgender girl could be forced into housing for males. The rule has not yet been published in the Federal Register which signals the beginning of public comments.

The 7th edition of the Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA) endorses the use of “they” as a singular third-person pronoun for non-binary and gender neutral people. Writers are required to use “they” for the APA.

Politics on Our Side

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

California: Poll workers are receiving training in helping transgender and non-binary voters. An information campaign will also work to ensure that trans and non-binary voters know their rights, include methods such as brochures, posters, and digital media ads. The state does not require a state-issued ID but tries to avoid discrimination if a voter does not match a poll worker's expectations from the registered name.

New Hampshire: Marc Bernier, 60, has been banned from Planet Fitness for life and given a one-year injunction to not contact a transgender woman after he repeatedly threatened to kill her because she used the women's locker room. He still faces misdemeanor charges for his threats.

New York/Rhode Island: Govs. Andrew Cuomo (D-NY) and Gina Raimondo (D-RI) have both signed legislation to restore state military benefits to veterans dishonorably discharged because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The laws don't allow the veterans to regain access to federal military benefits and create a process for them to upgrade their discharge status and apply to the federal government to have their records upgraded. The military discharged about 100,000 Q soldiers from the beginning of World War I to the 2011 repeal of the military's 1993 "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on out queer soldiers. New York's new law restores over 50 state benefits for veterans with less than honorable discharges for disorders related to military sexual trauma, brain injury, or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Oregon: Gov. Kate Brown has signed an executive order prohibiting discrimination based



on sexual orientation or gender identity at all state agencies which adds protections to trans and non-binary people to then Gov. Neil Goldschmidt's 1987 executive order.

Sweden: The government approved a grant of \$175,000 from the Swedish Inheritance Fund to organize shows with the group "Among Dragons and Drag Queens" in Stockholm. "The project, together with children, young people, and adults with disabilities, will develop current creative fairy tales into feature shows," the fund's website says. The money will also fund drag workshops and help kids put together their own drag show.



Luxembourg & Serbia: Two openly Q world leaders: Luxembourg's prime minister Xavier Bettel with his husband Gauthier Destenay and Serbia's prime minister Ana Brnabić with her partner Milica Djurdjic pose before a state visit to discuss Serbia's proposed accession to the EU. In a June summit, Bettel met with the gay Irish taoiseach Leo Varadkar.

News Bits

Medical care such as appropriate hormone and surgical intervention **reduce mental health issues for transgender people**, according to a Yale School of Medicine article published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*. More details here: <https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2019/10/transgender-surgery-leads-better-mental-health-study-finds/>

The American Medical Association has joined the **opposition to gay conversion therapy** and state and federal efforts to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

At an international conference on criminal law, Pope Francis **compared a homophobic, anti-Semitic politician to Adolf Hitler**.



The official blog of Pokémon Go, a massively popular mobile game, has fans excited with the possibility that **one of its lead characters is non-binary**. A post involving Blanche, leader of the blue Team Mystic, refers to Blanche using they/them pronouns.

Research Volunteers Wanted

Zachary DuBois (right), assistant professor in the Anthropology Department at the University of Oregon, is searching for participants in a paid research study on resilience, stress, and health in U.S. and Canadian transgender people.



The research group, the STAR Lab, is part of a multi-state collaboration. The research focuses on how political contexts in specific geographic locations and social stigma impact health and how trans people cope and maintain resilience.

DuBois and Dr. Jae Puckett at Michigan State University, both transgender researchers, initiated the study that involves a baseline visit where participants will meet with them to participate in a brief interview, complete questionnaires, and provide some physical measures, such as blood pressure.

Participants will also be asked to collect saliva samples after the visit to measure cortisol, a stress hormone. After this, participants will take monthly online surveys. In the 12th month, participants again meet with researchers for another brief interview and the same measures as at the beginning of the study.

Volunteers for the study are paid up to \$240 depending on how much of the study they complete.

More information: <https://anthropology.uoregon.edu/research/biological-anthropology/star-stress-adaptation-and-resilience-lab/>
<https://anthropology.uoregon.edu/profile/zdubois/>
Interested parties can contact DuBois at zdubois@uoregon.edu.

OHSU Provides More Transgender Health Care

OHSU is expanding access to care and services for transgender and non-binary people by adding four new staff members to the Transgender Health Program, creating first-ever fellowships in gender-affirming surgical care, and developing other projects to advance the program started in 2015. Care of over 1,000 adult and youth transgender patients makes the OHSU health program one of the biggest and most comprehensive in the U.S. Information here: <https://news.ohsu.edu/2019/08/28/ohsu-expanding-improving-transgender-health-services>

Q Candidates Win across the Country

Almost 100 of the 200 known Q candidates won their races on November 5, 2019, including in conservative states such as Kentucky and Virginia. The Victory Fund reported that 80 of its 111 endorsed candidates came out victorious. Wins in November mean that 144 Q contenders won in 382 races during the past year—an overall victory of 38 percent.

More men ran for office, but queer women had a higher success rate, 46 percent to 37 percent. Trans women won in state races in Virginia, Utah, Massachusetts and Iowa with a 56-percent success rate. Most candidates, 83 percent, ran as Democrats, and 2.4 percent ran as Republicans. Notable were Rep. Danica Roem (VA) winning for the second time, gay black Muslim school board member N.J. Akbar (Akron, OH), and three Q members of the Indianapolis City Council, two of them new.



Another gay candidate, 19-year-old Keagan Roberts (above), won a seat on the city council of South Berwick (ME) with a population of 7,000. Running as a write-in candidate, he received the second largest number of votes for the two open positions. Roberts said his mother, a state representative in Maine, taught him how to run a grassroots campaign. His platform is helping the green economy, building more community centers in the area, and encouraging young people to stay in South Maine instead of moving away.



Video advertising for the Renault Clio with the tagline “30 years in the making” celebrates the three-decade history of the car by showing the emotional 30-year journey of a lesbian couple. An English girl meets a French girl on a French exchange. They become good friends and are reunited years later as teenagers. Separated after their affair, they exchange letters and photos. The English girl’s father becomes furious when he discovers a letter. The English woman sadly watches the French woman marry a man, but she leaves him to cross the channel to find her real love. The video ends with a family—the two women and their daughter. Watch for yourself! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrNCVAqbCD0&feature=youtu.be>



Vogue’s cover honors the culture of indigenous transgender women called “muxes (pronounced MOO-she),” a term derived from the Spanish word *mujer*, meaning woman, and who mix gay male and feminine identities. Estrella Vazquez, a 37-year-old indigenous Zapotec muxe, wears a traditional huipil garment.

In Dallas, only four people showed up for “straight pride,” two from Boston, one member of the hate group Dallas Proud Boys, and “a woman named Princess Vanna who claims she converted from lesbianism after finding God,” according to local activist Soraya Colli. The organizers didn’t have a parade because of the \$12,000 permit fee, and the organizers didn’t appear.

People Who Make a Difference

Brad and Nick Shlaikowski, a married couple, opened Courage MKE, Wisconsin's first group home for homeless queer youth nine months ago. Their foster child, Annette, helped them realize how much Q youth need housing. One of the 40 percent of homeless youth identifying as Q, Annette's biological parents kicked her out of her home when she self-identified as a lesbian and didn't feel welcome at women's shelters. The couple bought a house in February 2018 and remodeled it with the help of over 100 volunteers and donated supplies from Lowe's and other building companies. Matthew Shepard's parents spoke at the fundraiser gala, helping to raise \$70,000. At the second annual gala, the couple received a \$10,000 check that allows them to open a second house for homeless queer youth. They have three children of their own from Brad's previous marriage and an adopted daughter, Ivy (posing with her dads above), who they began fostering in 2015.



Sean Doolittle, a professional baseball player with the Washington Nationals, refused to visit the White House after his team won the World Series, partly because he is an ally to Q people. Doolittle's wife, Eirann Doran, has two mothers. In June 2015, when some fans objected to the Oakland Athletics Pride Night, Doolittle and his then girlfriend Doran bought hundreds of game tickets and donated them to local Q groups, raising an additional \$40,000 in donations. Doolittle is pictured here with Sully, a working dog for wounded soldiers.

Jakob Fauerby and Silas Holst made Danish TV history as the first same-gender couple on *Vild med Dans*, the country's version of the Dancing With the Stars franchise, in its 16-year history. The couple won the semi-finals and moved on to the November 29 finals. An interview with them: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ol75bax3zmc>



OCC PFLAG

Everyone is invited to the Holiday Dessert Potluck on December 11, 6:00-7:30 pm at St. Stephen's. Bring a Holiday Day dessert to share—and take home the leftovers. Like a cookie exchange, only better!



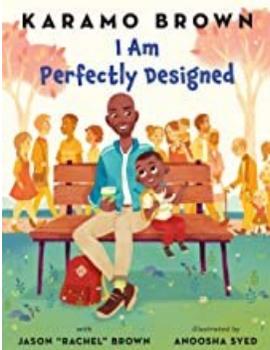
Information about the January 8 PFLAG planning meeting for 2020 will be in the next newsletter, including planning for an office/meeting space and an expanded team.

Olalla Center is holding a **benefit** for Bravery Center, a first-of-its kind resource in the local community for LGBTQ+ youth opening in 2020. Fundraiser attendees on December 7 (7:00-10:00 pm) must be over 21 years old.

Ten Q memoirs from the past few years. <https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/10-lgbtq-memoirs-read-national-memoir-writing-month-n1084786>

Media Matters:

Xbox Game Studios' latest game, *Tell Me Why*, is the first mainstream game from a major publisher that features transgender character Tyler Roman (right) as the playable lead hero. It will be available on Xbox One, Windows, and Game Pass in 2020.



Karamo Brown, the "Culture Guy" from Netflix's makeover series *Queer Eye*, has written a children's book, for ages 4 to 8, with his pansexual son Jason entitled *I Am Perfectly Designed* which features a variety of races and sexual orientations. The book's focus is Brown telling his sons that they were "perfectly designed" when growing up. Henry Holt has published the book.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

December 1, 11:00 am: Out Oregon Coast Breakfast at Newport Café—Newport

December 7, 7:00-10:00 pm: Brave Brews Fundraiser for the Bravery Center for LGBTQ Youth in Newport—Olalla Center, 321 SE 3rd St., Toledo

December 9, 6:30-8:00 pm: Newport Pride Exploratory Committee 4th Meeting—Apple Tree, 1605 N Coast Hwy, Newport

December 10, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBT & Allies Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Pacific Café, Olive St. north of PAC

December 11, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting—Holiday Dessert Potluck!—St. Stephens, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

December 13, 5:00-7:00 pm: Trans Support Group—Toledo Public Library, 173 NW 7th Street

December 16: Oregon Coast Queers and Peers gathering—Time and location TBD

December 22, 11:00 am: OUT OR Women at Nana's for Lunch—NW 3rd and Coast Streets, Newport

January 8: PFLAG Community Meeting for 2020—More info in the January newsletter

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.



Join PFLAG!

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

_____ Household (\$35)
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_____ Contribution \$ _____

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

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