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PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans-gender 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

August 2016

Take Action

Last month, the newsletter of OCC Chapter of PFLAG published part of a letter from Jeanne St. John in response to Duke Rider's letter to the editor. Since then, Rider submitted a second letter still protesting the rights of transgender students to use the bathrooms and other facilities that match their identity. Ineka Estabrook and Nancy Campbell Mead, past president of the local NOW chapter, sent letters to the *News Times* (Newport, OR), again responding to Rider's transphobia. The letters can be read here:

<https://centraloregoncoastnow.com/2016/07/17/bathroom-access-for-transgender-people/>

<https://centraloregoncoastnow.com/2016/07/24/in-response-to-duke-rider-reducing-a-sexually-hostile-environment/>

Thank Target!

Over three months ago, Target welcomed everyone to "use the restroom or fitting room facility that corresponds with their gender identity." You can sign a petition thanking them.

<https://www.dailykos.com/campaigns/forms/sign-and-share-fight-hateshow-target-some-love>

PFLAG needs candidates for Newport City Council who want to promote diversity in city employees, police forces, and city policies. The deadline is August 30; information and application are available here: <http://www.newportoregon.gov/dept/adm/documents/2016CandidateInformationPacket-6-1-16.pdf>

Please run! The Council needs more progressive voices in local government!

FAIR Education Act Takes Effect in California

California is the first state in the nation to mandate the inclusion of LGBT people in its history and social studies curriculum for public schools. The Fair, Accurate, Inclusive, and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act was signed into law in 2012, but conservatives fought its implementation until their primary complaint was how religious groups were depicted in education. Now children can see themselves reflected in education, learning about different family structure in second grade and LGBT rights history in the fourth grade. Eighth grade curriculum provides education about traditional gender norms and groups that rebelled against them when settling out West in the first half of the 20th century. While high school juniors, teens will find out about discrimination of LGBT people in the military, government, and other areas.

A brief history lesson that probably won't appear in any of the schools: Although the hit Broadway play *Hamilton* skips this part of America's history, Alexander Hamilton was considered bisexual and had his own cabin at Valley Forge with lover John Laurens—thanks to gay-friendly general George Washington. Despite severe punishment for being gay at the time, George Washington would most likely have overlooked the behavior of a soldier caught in a relationship with another soldier if Lt. Col. Aaron Burr had not pushed for a court martial. Washington only signed the discharge, the first known instance of a discharge for homosexuality in the American Army. The general also overlooked the relationship between Maj. Gen. Frederick Wilhelm von Steuben, the Prussian military genius consulting on strategy at Valley Forge, and his lover, young French assistant, Pierre Etienne Duponceau. Washington also honorably discharged Deborah Sampson, who masqueraded as a man in the Continental Army and had relationships with other women at that time.

And the science lesson they probably won't get either: "Some salmon are gay. Some bison are bi. Don't let anyone tell you it isn't natural." That the message from a video posted on the Facebook page of the Center for Biological Diversity when it celebrated Pride month with sexual diversity in nature. the group writes on their Facebook page. It also has links to the book *Biological Exuberance: Animal Homosexuality and Natural Diversity*, one of the New York Public Library's "25 Books to Remember" for 1999. LGBT is natural, as biologists discovered in most animal species; some human awareness just hasn't caught up. Here's the link to the 48-second video: <http://www.thegailygrind.com/2016/06/02/some-salmon-are-gay-some-bison-are-bi-a-look-at-sexual-diversity-in-the-wild/>

After waiting for a change in North Carolina's anti-LGBT legislation, the NBA has given up. It plans to relocate the 2017 All-Star weekend from Charlotte.

This action isn't the league's first support of LGBT. It has partnered with the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) to sell shirts with all 30 team logos in rainbow colors. The shirts are sold only on Teespring with all proceeds going to GLSEN.

The NBA is following a trend: the MLB and NHL has released rainbow clothing for a few of their teams.



Politics on Our Side

Cleveland: The city unanimously passed legislation for transgender people to use public bathrooms matching their gender identities just four days before the beginning of the Republican convention in Cleveland. Private business owners with public restrooms also cannot dictate bathroom use.

Alabama: The Eleventh Circuit ruled that Paul Hard would receive \$553,000 in a wrongful death settlement after his husband, David Fancher, was killed in a car crash soon after the couple was married in 2011 in Massachusetts. Fancher's mother had argued that the money was hers because the two men were not legally married.

California: ChristianMingle.com must now include people looking for same-gender relationships after two gay men sued the online dating site in 2013. The ruling also covers more websites owned by the company including CatholicMingle.com, AdventistSinglesConnection.com, and BlackSingles.com.

Indiana: U.S. District Judge Tanya Walton Pratt ordered the state to list both spouses in a lesbian marriages as parents on their children's birth certificates. The judge said that not listing both parents is discriminatory and violates the equal protection and due process clauses of the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment.

Kentucky: The 6th Circuit Court declined a request from County Clerk Kim Davis to vacate an order that found her in contempt after she refused last summer to issue marriage licenses to all couples in defiance of the landmark Supreme Court decision recognizing marriage equality. To avoid issuing

license to same-gender couples, Davis had created a blanket "no license policy" for everyone wishing to marry in the county. The appeals' court order dismisses the case against Davis but leaves in place the contempt order because her lawyers didn't meet the necessary legal requirements. Davis' lawyer does not plan to appeal the ruling.

Kentucky: The state attorney general's office stated that Davis violated the Open Records Act when she refused to produce documents related to her battle a year ago. The nonprofit Campaign for Accountability requested records between Davis and her attorneys, the religious advocacy group Liberty Counsel, on March 1, but Davis' lawyers said that the documents are private. The Open Records Act provides for costs and attorney's fees to be awarded in some cases as well as up to \$25 per day for each day the person is denied access to the record.

Kentucky: Past-presidential candidate Mike Huckabee had to pay \$25,000 for his illegal use of Survivor's "Eye of the Tiger" that he used to escort Kentucky county clerk Kim Davis after she spend five days in jail for refusing issue marriage licenses to same-gender couples. The court wouldn't swallow lawyers' arguments that Huckabee used it during a religious rally "signifying joy and praise at the release of Mrs. Davis."

Kentucky: Thanks to Davis' refusal to issue marriage licenses to same gender couples, a new state law has gone into effect authorizing single marriage license forms on which people identify themselves as bride, groom, or spouse.

(More "Politics on Our Side" on p. 5.)

Nickelodeon, the children's cable channel, is featuring its first married same-gender couple with Howard and Harold, Clyde McBride's fathers, on *The Loud House*. In "Overnight Success," Harold walks son Clyde to the Louds' house for a sleepover.

One person's vote can make a huge difference. The day after the Anglican Church of Canada announced that it had rejected the authorization of same-gender marriage, the 200 delegates at the General Synod 2016 reversed its position because it had miscounted votes.

The resolution for this authorization had failed by one vote, but a recount passed the resolution in favor of marriage equality. The passing vote came from Dr. Michael Thompson who was erroneously listed as lay person instead of priest.

The United Methodist Church (UMC) unanimously elected its first openly gay bishop although the UMC's Book of Discipline still officially prohibits the ordination of "self-avowed practicing homosexuals." Karen Oliveto, a lesbian pastor of Glide Memorial UMC in San Francisco and one of three openly gay pastors nominated for bishop this year, was elected by the Western Jurisdiction of the UMC.

LGBT pastors can still face sanctions, but the full church has proposed a commission to determine if it should permit LGBT ordination and same-gender marriage.

OCC Goes to Portland Pride

While most young LGBT people were home with their families on Father's Day, Portland Price Parade was still the destination for Ineka Estabrook and three enthusiastic teenagers.



More Politics on Our Side

Maryland: The state's Court of Appeals ruled in *Conover v. Conover* that a person who qualifies as a "de facto" parent can be granted visitation rights if a trial court determines that it is in the best interest of the child. On the same day, **Michigan**, which does not recognize "de facto" parents, refused visitation for a woman who co-parented a child with her lesbian partner for six years. That ruling from the appeals court overturned one made by Washtenaw County judge, who gave parenting time to the non-biological parent based on the child's best interest. (Definitely not "on our side.") The fall-out from shifts in marriage law for same-gender couples will reverberate in the United States for decades.

Massachusetts: Gov. Charlie Baker has signed the first state law this year that allows transgender people to use restrooms and locker rooms that correspond with their gender identities. Seventeen states explicitly prohibit discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation in public accommodations although 57 percent of the population opposes these discriminatory laws and only 38 percent support them. The last protection law for transgender residents was passed in 2014. "Public accommodations" refers not only to public restrooms but also to all facilities in businesses that are open to the public. State GOP Senate leader, Bruce Starr, said that "no one "should be discriminated against and no person should be harassed or intimidated as they try to access public places." The state House passed the bill by 117-36 and the Senate was unanimous in a voice vote with no discussion.

Mississippi: U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves ruled that clerks in Mississippi are not permitted to recuse themselves from issuing marriage licenses to same-gender couples based on religious beliefs, despite a recent state law to the contrary.

New York: Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has signed an executive order to build a monument in New York City honoring the LGBT community, those lost in Orlando, and all victims of hate, intolerance and violence.

South Carolina: State Sen. Lee Bright, sponsor of the Palmetto State's unsuccessful effort to pass a transphobic "bathroom bill," lost his Republican primary runoff.

Washington: A proposed initiative to repeal the state law allowing transgender people to use the appropriate bathroom for them has failed to gather enough signatures.

United States: The U.S. Department of Justice has filed to keep North Carolina's HB2 from being implemented on the basis that it constitutes discrimination on the basis of sex by requiring transgender individuals to use the bathroom and changing facility that corresponds with their birth certificate rather than their gender identity. At this time, the University of North Carolina has refused to follow the state law that has made the state an object of ridicule and given it a hit to the economy by cancellations of conventions.

Over one billion people—about 14 percent of the world's population—live where same-gender marriage is legal. Marriage equality in Colombia and several Mexican states in early July pushed the figure past one billion. About one-third of that billion people live in the United States. The first same-gender marriages were in the Netherlands in 2001: from zero to a billion in 15 years!

People Who Make a Difference

Hillary Clinton, presidential candidate, was the first major party presumptive nominee for President to march in the New York City Pride Parade. In 2010, five years before the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality, Clinton enacted the rule that sexual reassignment surgery was no longer a requirement for transgender people to register their identities on passports. For the past six years, the only requirement is a doctor's note. LGBT experts called this change "huge," "enormous," and "monumental."



A group of children, including two four-year-old boys, made \$250 at a lemonade stand for people who attended the New York Pride parade. They donated every cent of sales and donations to the Orlando support fund which has already raised \$7.5 million for families of victims and clubgoers wounded in the attack at the Pulse nightclub. <https://www.gofundme.com/pulsevictimsfund>

The Orlando Shakespeare Theatre fashioned "angel wings" from white sheets and PVC pipes for a human wall between the funerals of LGBT people killed at the Pulse nightclub and the offensive anti-LGBT shouts from members of the Westboro Baptist church located in Topeka (KS). Over 200 people from bikers to priests donned the wings. The concept came from Romaine Patterson, who organized similar protection from the same church's protests at the funeral of hate crime victim Matthew Shepard after he was killed in 1999.



Two Democratic transgender candidates, both named Misty, won primaries for congressional seats to unseat incumbents. Snow (left) runs against Sen. Mike Lee (UT), and Plowright (right) opposes Rep. Doug Lamborn (CO).



OCC PFLAG Activities

August celebrates the **fifth annual PFLAG picnic** on August 13, 2:00-4:00 pm at the Toledo Riverfront Park Pavilion. Bring a potluck item to share. The date has been changed from a previous announcement because a conflict with the wooden boat show.

Two LGBT+ senior citizens **need rides to PFLAG meetings**. Those willing to provide these rides should contact Ineka at inekae@gmail.com.

Peace Village needs people willing to do a one-hour activity for about 10 children ages 6-11 that promotes themes of peace, diversity awareness, conflict resolution, ecology, etc. The activity can use art, crafts, dance, survival skills, games, projects, storytelling, etc. Interested parties should contact Ineka at inekae@gmail.com.

The LaDeDa Parade was a huge success this year with almost 30 people marching with the PFLAG banner, including local chapters of Oregon Ceasefire and National Organization.

PFLAG is scheduling an LGBT+ panel presentation with a focus on trans needs for DHS. One goal is helping current foster families become more sensitive to LGBT+ foster children's needs. **One trans foster child in Siletz needs to be relocated** to a trans-friendly foster family. Interested parties should contact Debora Veronneau at debora.veronneau@state.or.us.



New Book for Youth: In Laurent Linn's new graphic novel, *Draw the Line*, teenager Adrian Piper tries to blend into the background of his Texas high school. He lives his personal life through his drawings of gay superhero, Graphite, until he finds himself in the spotlight because he intervenes in a hate crime against a gay classmate. The themes of isolation, honesty, romance, gay "manliness," bullying, and heroism will resonate with both LGBTQ and heterosexual readers. Readers call it a "groundbreaking" book—"a serious look at hard-hitting social issues, with a warm fuzzy tingle of hope to wrap it up."

OCC PFLAG Calendar

August 3, 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.)

August 8-12: Peace Village

August 9, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie's Beachside Grill, Newport

August 13, 2:00-4:00: PFLAG Annual Picnic—Toledo Riverfront Park Pavilion

August 28, 11:00 am: OUT OR Coast Women's Coffee - Café Mundo, Newport

October 14-16: Coos Bay first Gay Pride!
<https://www.facebook.com/southernoregoncoastpride/>

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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.

Please send information about experiences with the local law enforcement to Ineka Estabrook at inekae@gmail.com. OCC PFLAG is following up on a complaint registered with the Newport Police Department.

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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