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Oregon Central Coast
PFLAG—[https://
www.facebook.com/
groups/103956190597](https://www.facebook.com/groups/103956190597)

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 discrim-
ination and secure equal
civil rights.

Oregon Central Coast Chapter

November/December 2020

Thank you for voting! Biden's administration will hopefully make a huge difference for LGBTQ rights and opportunities.

After Rachel Maddow returned to her MSNBC news show after quarantining, she explained the reason, that her beloved partner of 21 years, artist and photographer Susan Mikula, had almost died of COVID-19. The segment is a must watch! <https://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow/watch/maddow-we-feared-susan-s-covid-would-kill-her-your-risks-could-hurt-those-you-love-most-96272453820>

In another MSNBC first, "chart-throb" Steve Kornacki, the out MSNBC analyst, was voted #13 on the *People's* list of "Sexiest Men of 2020." Even the "palomino brown" Gap khakis he wore, retailing at \$59.95, became best sellers. Kornacki has been the network's election coverage map correspondent since 2014. His 2011 coming-out story is also a must read.



[https://www.salon.com/2011/11/16/
the_coming_out_story_i_never_thought_id_write/](https://www.salon.com/2011/11/16/the_coming_out_story_i_never_thought_id_write/)

During the restrictions of COVID-19, the PFLAG newsletter may sometimes be published every two months instead of monthly. If you have news, please send it to Nel Ward, Box 2304, Newport, OR 97365 or nelcward@charter.net.

**Dec. 1—World Aids Day
Election Success Stories**

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A Local Coming Out Story

A friend sent me her “coming out” experience to celebrate October 11—Coming Out Day. And no, she’s not boring! I consider this a profile in courage:

“Today I am publicly coming out and identifying as Agender Asexual Aromantic, or AAA. AAA: A person who identifies as genderless, who generally does not experience sexual attraction to others of any gender and who experiences little or no romantic attraction to others of any gender. Just to clarify, this does NOT make me a boring person.

“I am a proud member of the LGBTQIA+ community. I know that may cause discomfort for some, but it is time that I live my life free of what others think of me and the box that others may want to put me in just to make them feel comfortable.

“This has been a long journey of self-discovery, and I am finally at a place where I feel at peace. Identifying as AAA resonates deep in my soul.

“At work, I go by ‘Harris,’ no Mrs., Ms., or Miss. My coworkers have been amazingly supportive and respect my wishes. This year, the Sunshine Committee asked us our preferred pronouns. I was able to share my nonstandard preferred pronouns (nee/ner as in neither). A heartfelt thank you to those of you who support and love me just as I am.

“I have been asked, why do you have to have a label? Why do you have to come out and tell everyone? The answer to that question is that I strive to live an authentic life, and to do that, I have to be able to identify as I feel I am. Do not be offended when I wear rainbow colors. I feel free and able to be myself for the first time in my life. I will live that life with no shame, hiding, or embarrassment.”

Thank you, Harris!

More News from around the World

United States: After almost three years of litigation, a gay couple has finally achieved citizenship for their twins, Aiden and Ethan Dvash-Banks, after the 9th Circuit Court unanimously upheld a lower-court ruling. The current U.S. State Department considers children of same-gender couples to be born “out of wedlock” despite the legalization of marriage equality. Roe and Adiel Kiviti have also won their court case to gain their daughter’s citizenship. Three other couples are still fighting similar cases.

United States: The Supreme Court denied an appeal from Kim Davis after the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled same-gender couples can sue her in her individual capacity as county clerk for refusing them marriage licenses. Davis spent five days in jail for defying court orders to issue licenses. Both Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito said the case *Obergefell v. Hodges*, granting marriage equality, has “ruinous consequences” for religious liberty. The high court is scheduled to hear a case about Philadelphia’s refusal to use a Catholic agency barring same-gender couples from becoming foster parents.

Argentina: The army may require at least one-percent transgender troops as the country does in the public sector.

Japan: The country’s first permanent LGBTQ center, Pride House Tokyo, opened on International Coming Out Day as part of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics Program. The first “Pride House” officially recognized by the International Olympics Committee opened earlier than expected as a help “to live with the pandemic in the mid to long term.”

Norway: Hate speech is banned against bisexual and transgender people as well as G and L.

Politics on Our Side

Track current LGBTQ bills: <https://www.freedomforallamericans.org/2020-legislative-tracker/> [All 2020 bills]

California: Gov. Gavin Newsom signed four pro-LGBTQ bills into law: the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation must ask inmates about their gender identities and pronouns before appropriately housing them; the state is required to correct information about LGBTQ people and the COVID-19 pandemic; a Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund will help transgender, non-binary, and intersex individuals access housing and health care; and the state will fight healthcare discrimination for people with HIV, requiring insurance companies to get informed consent before HIV testing and making testing results confidential.

Minnesota: A judge ruled a transgender boy in the Anoka-Hennepin School District can use the locker room his peers use instead of an “enhanced privacy locker room.” The former student had been allowed for months to use the regular locker room while he was on the swim team before the school stopped him. He went from happy and healthy to being hospitalized for mental health crises. The school board determined the use of facilities by transgender students in a secret “case-by-cases basis.”

Nevada: Voters overturned an 18-year-old ban on same-sex marriage, making the state the first to enshrine same-gender couples’ right to marry in its state constitution. The “Marriage Regardless of Gender” passed by 62 percent. Although the Supreme Court legalized marriage equality in 2015, 30 states still have constitutional bans on same-gender marriages. At least two justices recently expressed opposition to marriage equality, and they may be joined to make a majority of justices for overturning its legalization.

New York: The NYPD will pay Linda Dominguez \$30,000 after it arrested the transgender woman for “false personation” because she gave both her current and former names. She was arrested for being in a park after dark. Jailed overnight, she said officers misgendered her, deadnamed her, and insulted her. She changed her name on legal documents in 2017 but has a previous arrest under her former name. Despite the settlement, officers face no disciplinary action.



New York: The state will permit “X” on driver’s licenses for nonbinary people. Last year, New York allowed parents to list “X” on birth certificates to identify them as nonbinary.

Texas: Gov. Greg Abbott has been forced to reverse his order that social workers can refuse to work with LGBTQ people and people with disabilities. State lawmakers ordered the Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners (TSBSWE) to reinstate civil rights protections. The Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council, overseeing several mental health licensing organizations in the state, voted unanimously to restore the protections.

United States: Lambda Legal has filed a class action lawsuit, *Fain v. Crouch*, opposing West Virginia’s refusal to cover gender-confirming care in the state’s Medicaid and state employee health insurance plans. West Virginia has 564,000 Medicaid participants and 15,000 state employees.

White House

Biden has named Carlos Elizondo, an out gay man, for White House social secretary for his administration. Elizondo was Biden's social secretary when he was vice president.



The North and South Poles celebrated its first Polar Pride Day on November 18 as part of the 200th anniversary of the “discovery” of Antarctica and the International Day of LGBQIA+ People in STEM [Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics] celebrations. A special pin was created with the white polar bear for the Arctic region and the black penguin for the Antarctic and South Pole territories.



LGBTQ Elected Winners

LGBTQ State Legislature Successes:

- ◆ New York: Jabari Brisport
- ◆ Georgia's first openly LGBTQ State Senator: Kim Jackson
- ◆ Delaware: Sarah McBride (transgender); Marie Pinkney (defeated state senate President pro tem who held his district seat for 40 years)
- ◆ Rhode Island: Tiara Mack
- ◆ Hawaii: Adrian Tam (defeated founder of the state's far-right Proud Boys group)
- ◆ Texas: Ann Johnson

In an ongoing story, Charmaine McGuffey became the first woman and open lesbian to be elected sheriff in Hamilton County (OH) after she defeated her former boss in the primary and then beat a Republican in the general election. The former sheriff, a DDT supporter, fired her for being a lesbian.

Diversity in government continues with LGBTQ inclusion on President-elect Joe Biden's transition team:

- ◆ Pete Buttigieg, former South Bend (IN) mayor and first openly gay major presidential candidate.
- ◆ Shawn Skelly, transgender Navy veteran: Defense Department.
- ◆ Juan Sepulveda, professor at Trinity University (San Antonio, TX): arts and humanities.
- ◆ Noel Poyo, executive director of the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders: Housing and Urban Development.
- ◆ Chai Feldblum and Pamela Karlan: DOJ and related agencies including the Federal Election Commission, the Commission on Civil Rights, and the State Justice Initiative.
- ◆ Dave Noble, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan: the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Office of National Drug Control Policy.
- ◆ Ken Cloe: Department of Health and Human Services.
- ◆ Michael Guest: State Department.
- ◆ Jeff Marootian: Department of Transportation.
- ◆ Kathleen Hartnett and Lynn Rosenthal: Justice Department.
- ◆ Kei Koizumi: National Science Foundation and Office of Science and Technology Policy.
- ◆ Amanda Fischer: Federal Reserve, Banking and Securities Regulators.

Some of the 500 LGBTQ 2020 Candidates

Maine Rep. Ryan Fecteau (D), grandson of French-Canadian immigrants, will be the first out speaker of the state's House of Representatives. Now 28 years old, he was also the youngest out state lawmaker in Maine when he was first elected in 2014 and the youngest state house speaker in the country. Raised by his mother in low-income housing, he didn't learn to read until he was in fourth grade but became the first member of his family to graduate from college. At the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., he helped convince the school to recognize an LGBTQ student organization. Out gay Trump-supporter George Santos lost his election bid in New York. Lawmakers below may have equally inspiring stories.

U.S. Congress has at least 11 LGBTQ members in the upcoming session. Out LGBTQ Reps. Sharice Davids (KS), Chris Pappas (NH), David Cicilline (RI), Mark Takano (CA), Sean Maloney (NY), and Mark Pocan (WI) have all won their reelection campaigns for the U.S. House. They'll be joined by Angie Craig (MN) and New Yorkers Ritchie Torres and Mondaire Jones. [Torres and Jones are the first Black and Afro-Latino openly-gay congressional members.] Jones was elected Freshman Representative to Leadership in the 117th House of Representatives. Out gay Trump-supporter George Santos lost his House election bid in New York. The Senate has two out LGBTQ members—Tammy Baldwin (WI) and Kyrsten Sinema (AZ).

Across the country, more than 160 candidates endorsed by the Victory Fund won their races, including San Diego's first LGBTQ+ mayor and mayor of color, Todd Gloria, and the first out bisexual mayor in the country, Palm Springs' Christy Holstege.

The newly flipped state of Pennsylvania will welcome two returning LGBTQ+ lawmakers — Malcolm Kenyatta and Brian Sims —to the state House. Also in the Keystone State, newcomer Jessica Benham will be the first openly bisexual person with autism to serve in a any state legislature in U.S. history.

Martin Jenkins, Gov. Gavin Newsom's appointment, has become the first out gay justice on California's Supreme Court and the fifth Black person to serve on the court.

State Openly LGBTQ+ Legislature Firsts:

- ◆ Tennessee: Torrey Harris (first gay Black and youngest lawmaker at age 29) and Eddie Mannis.
- ◆ Oklahoma: Mauree Turner (first nonbinary and Muslim state lawmaker). [Oklahoma state senate has a lesbian minority leader; another state senator identifies as pansexual and Two Spirit.]
- ◆ Colorado: David Ortiz (first bisexual and first wheelchair user).
- ◆ Florida (first LGBTQ+ women of color): Michele Rayner-Goolsby and Shervin Jones (re-elected after coming out).
- ◆ Kansas: Native American Stephanie Byers (first transgender person of color in any state legislature).
- ◆ Vermont: Becca Balint (first openly lesbian state Senate president pro tempore). In 2014, she was the first lesbian to be elected to the Vermont Senate.
- ◆ Vermont: Taylor Small (first out transgender person in state House). She works as director at the nonprofit Pride Center of Vermont and made headlines with her drag queen persona, Nikki Champagne, leading children's reading sessions.
- ◆ Georgia: Kim Jackson (first openly LGBTQ+ state senator).

(More winners on pp. 4 & 6)

People Who Make a Difference



Lynn Conway, in 1968 a promising young computer engineer at IBM, was fired because she is transgender. Fifty-two years later the company apologized in a virtual meeting with IBM supervisors and announced the company now offers support to “transitioning employees.” Conway was given a lifetime achievement award for her “pioneering work” in computers. Her career has included work at Memorex, Xerox Palo Alto Research Center, and the University of Michigan. In 1999 she came out to the public and created a website after IBM researched her project. (Left: Conway in 2018.)

<https://ai.eecs.umich.edu/people/conway/conway.html> (Conway in 2018.)

Soccer star **Megan Rapinoe** (right) and WNBA legend **Sue Bird**, who started dating four years ago, got engaged the week before the election. Joe Biden, now president-elect, tweeted, “Love will always win. Congratulations.” Quarantining together, the couple was the first LGBTQ couple to be cover stars for *ESPN The Magazine’s Body Issue* in 2018 and co-hosted the 2020 ESPYs with NFL quarterback Russell Wilson.



Petra De Sutter, a transgender gynecologist, has been selected as Belgium’s Deputy Prime Minister. She will be the minister

for public administration and public enterprises. The media coverage focusing on her profession reflects how progressive Belgium politics compares to neighboring countries.

Progressive Delaware candidate **Eric Morrison** defeated incumbent State Rep. Earl Jacques (D) in the state’s primary election with 61 percent of the vote before winning in the general election. Jacques opposed LGBTQ rights with a vote against marriage equality and an abstention on conversion therapy. Morrison performs as a drag queen under the name “Anita Mann.” (Right: the two “faces” of Eric Morrison.)



Notes from PFLAG

Facebook: Oregon Central Coast PFLAG—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/103956190597>

Bravery's updates, information, and resources: <https://www.olallacenter.org/bravery-center>

COCTC + Bravery Trans Support.
Zoom details at events tab, <https://www.facebook.com/braverycenter/>

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.

Media Matters:

Prominent author Rob Sanders, notable for his LGBTQ nonfiction picture books, has a **new book featuring openly gay Pete Buttigieg** from his birth in Indiana to his groundbreaking run for president. Sanders wrote about Buttigieg's realization after serving in Afghanistan: "He had stood up for the rights of others but had never told the whole truth about himself." Buttigieg came out as gay in the local paper and then met teacher Chasten Glezman. Their friendship turned into a full-blown relationship followed by marriage. Buttigieg is now well-known throughout the United States and respected by Democrats and Republicans alike.



"Every time a parent comes out in support of their child they inspire others to do the same—making the world a more accepting, affirming, and compassionate place." That's the theme in "**Proud Parent,**" a **three-minute film** about the love story of Jen and Amy with Jen's introduction of Amy to the parents. Oreo's new film was made in partnership with PFLAG National. Watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpfLklSG2dQ>

Transparent and *Hustlers* star Trace Lysette produced a **new Netflix docuseries, *Trans in Trumpland***, following four transgender people on a road trip through four states with no legal protections. The series portrays how they navigate transphobia and fight for their rights in an oppressive regime. Other Netflix films chronicling the LGBTQ community: *Disclosure* and *Circus of Books*, the latter from the perspective of a couple owning an adult book and video store.

<http://oregonhumanities.org/rll/magazine/outside-summer-2020/foremothers-of-photography/> : **A chronicle of Southern Oregon's separatist lesbian lands.**

OCC PFLAG Calendar

Because of PFLAG's work to protect people from COVID-19 infection, meetings will continue in Zoom. Meeting link below meeting dates/times.

Monday-Friday, 3:00-6:00 pm: Virtual drop-in support for teens on Bravery's Discord Server (Send a request on Facebook, Instagram, or email beckj@olallacenter.org)

PFLAG Zoom Online Support Group meets **every other Wednesday from 6:00-8:00 pm** until further notice for mutual support and encouragement in a time of isolation. All LGBTQ people as well as their families and friends are welcome.

December 9, 6:00 pm

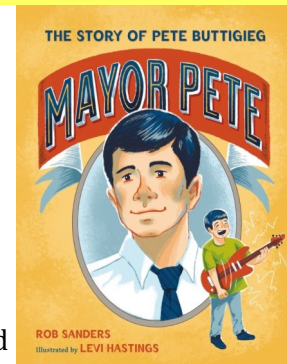
December 23, 6:00 pm

January 6, 6:00 pm

January 20, 6:00 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/292522285>

Meeting ID: 292 522 285



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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