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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

August 2020

This opportunity is open to youth (Tribal and non-Tribal) who identify as Two Spirit or LGBTQ in all areas! Please spread the word.

Thursday, September 3, 3:30 – 5 :00 pm
Siletz Clinic Yurt

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2487413741526107/>

CTSI would like to start a virtual Two Spirit and LGBTQ youth group. We are looking for the following feedback:

- What format would most benefit you?
- Would you be willing to take on a leadership role?
- What do you want to get out of this group?

Let us know how we can best support you!
Please contact Hannah by text/call at
541-270-8472.

Oregon law is looking out for Q people!

See p. 2

PFLAG OCC Board Meeting, 7/6/20

Present: Jeanne St. John, Lisa Norton, Amy Shumate, Beck Johnson, Marci Frederic, Bruce Fairman

Absent: Ash King, Claire Hall, Brett Pinder

- * Bookkeeping items such as bank signatures, IRS report, and PO Box.
- * Bravery Center site has been selected and will be identified to public in future.
- * Name change for OCC PFLAG has been put on hold.
- * Virtual meetings every other week continue.
- * Discussion of a virtual picnic on August 29, 3:00-5:00 pm on Zoom.
- * 2020 Central Coast Pride canceled until September 2021.
- * Waverly Sudborough chosen for PFLAG OCC Annual Scholarship.
- * Officers' meeting on August 3, 2020, 12:00 noon.

Oregon Rulings, Policies Continue to Support Q People

Nonbinary people in the state can obtain the correct legal gender designation on documents from their local circuit court, according to a ruling from the state Appeals Court decision reversing a decision from a Lane County judge. The appeal came from Jones David Hollister, who had earlier been denied a petition to become seen as a nonbinary person. The law will not follow the same process for all other nonbinary Oregonians. Although Oregon permits a gender identification of "X" on driver's licenses, lawyers argued that this was only an "administrative change" with unclear broader legal implications.

Other Oregon counties had previously granted new legal designations to other nonbinary people, but the Lane County judge had refused to do so, stating that existing state law doesn't specifically mention nonbinary people. He encouraged Hollister to appeal his ruling as a future clarification of the law.

At the end of Pride month, the Oregon Department of Education released a success plan that "outlines potential actions and strategies that can be taken both at a state level and locally to help [LGBTQ] students feel safe and supported, no matter their gender identity or sexual orientation." Recommendations include regional student networks, a statewide school climate culture survey, teacher training through university programs and state licensing, and an online directory to better understand the LGBTQ community. The report also discusses limitations from lack of substantial financial or other support such as staff or curriculum to enforce implementation in all the state's 197 school districts.

Kieran Chase, transgender justice program manager for Basic Rights Oregon, said the plan is only the first step in creating inclusive environments for students. Another problem for the plan is the state's need to deal with COVID-19 at this time.

Politics on Our Side

Track current Q bills: <https://www.freedomforallamericans.org/2020-legislative-tracker/>

Alaska: After a Ketchikan florist refused to provide flowers for a gay couple's wedding service, the town passed an ordinance prohibiting discrimination against Q people. The new ordinance prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations. Tongass Historical Museum curator Ryan McHale told the city council, "Segregationists during the Jim Crow era cited scripture as justification for maintaining racial segregation and inequality."

Arizona: To save \$750,000 a year, Maricopa County's new attorney overturned a five-year rule banning adoptions by same-gender couples. Unfortunately, the former attorney was appointed to the state Supreme Court.

Colorado: The state's gay governor signed four pro-Q bills into law: ban the Q panic defenses (the 11th state to have this law); allow pharmacists to prescribe and dispense pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent HIV spread plus require insurers to pay for PrEP and permit patients to obtain it without prior insurance authorization; create funds for lower-income patients with state rebates from HIV/AIDS medical assistance programs; and simplify method for minors to correct gender markers on state documents by using only a statement from a medical or mental health professional indicating a person identifies as a different gender.

Maine: Parents may now receive birth certificates with nonbinary gender markers for their minor children with an application and "an individual notarized affirmation that the change is made to align the record with their gender identity." Several other states such as New York, California, and Colorado have the same law.

North Dakota: GOP Gov. Doug Burgum denounced an anti-Q resolution passed by Republican legislators, calling it homophobic and divisive. The resolution stated, "LGBT practices are unhealthy and dangerous, sometimes endangering or shortening life and sometimes infecting society at large." Burgum said, "All North Dakotans deserve to be treated equally and live free of discrimination. There's no place for the hurtful and divisive rhetoric in the NDGOP resolutions."

United States: The House of Representatives voted in a voice vote to overturn the Trump-Pence administration's transgender military ban by blocking the use of funds to implement the discriminatory rule.

Mexico City: The municipality is the most recent to ban Q-conversion therapy.

Gabon: The senate has followed the National Assembly in legalizing sexual relationships between consenting people of the same gender. President Ali Bongo Ondimba signed the bill repealing a 2019 law criminalizing same-gender relationships.

The Netherlands: A constitutional amendment to ban discrimination against Q people in the nation passed the lower legislative chamber by 124-26 and moves on to the Senate before needing to be again approved by the next parliament before becoming law. It adds "sexual orientation" to protected categories in the country's constitution that requires everyone "be treated equally in equal circumstances." According to Second Deputy Prime Minister Kajsa Ollongren, "sex" includes transgender and intersex people. In 2001, the Netherlands was the first country in the world to legalize marriage equality.

UK: According to a judge, adoption agencies can no longer discriminate against same-gender couples, but agencies can still discriminate on the basis of religion.

News Bits

In a state that has seen vicious anti-Q fights, Indianapolis city council swore in its first Q caucus and now has a proclamation to honor Q people of color who have pushed equality forward in the state.

The Pride Month resolution also encourages Q people to register for the vote. Zach Adamson was the first out gay elected official in the state.

Current polling acceptance of same-gender marriage, 67 percent, matches the all-time high approval in 2018.

Satirist Randy Rainbow uses the theme “poor deplorable troll” in setting clips of Donald Trump to *The Little Mermaid* song “Poor Unfortunate Souls.” <https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2020/07/get-cross-donald-trump-ursula-poor-deplorable-troll/>

To ban the Confederate flag on military installations, Defense Secretary Mark Esper blocked many other flags, including the Q Pride rainbow flag and sovereign Native Nations flags, by specifying a limited category of acceptable flags.

Thirty-four House members have written Esper, demanding he lift these military bans against symbols of diversity and inclusion. The Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard have all banned the Confederate flag, and the House of Representatives passed a bipartisan provision in the National Defense Authorization Act to ban the Confederate Battle Flag.

Politics Work for Q People

The number of Q elected officials in the U.S. doubled over the last four years. Last year’s increase: all levels of more Q elected officials (21%), more Q mayors (35%), more elected trans women (40%), more elected bisexual officials (53%), and a 71% increase in more queer elected officials (71%)—with a total of 843 openly Q elected officials in the U.S. Yet only .17% of elected officials are known to be Q.

Vote in the general election to increase the percentage!

In Indiana, lesbian Pat Hackett (right) is a Q candidates running for the U.S. House in November.



Twenty-two U.S. states are suing to stop the Trump administration from repealing critical health care protections for transgender people. A Health and Human Services rule to go into effect this month maintains that sex is “determined by biology.” Q people are more likely to be frontline workers and less likely to have health insurance. In the majority opinion for a Supreme Court ruling, Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote, “It is impossible to discriminate against a person for being homosexual or transgender without discriminating against that individual based on sex.”

Pose co-creator Steven Canals is planning an episode for *This American Life*, “81 Words,” which follows the struggle to declassify homosexuality as a mental illness in 1974. The success by Q rights activists Barbara Gittings and Frank Kameny provide the basis for de-criminalizing queer intimacy and legalizing sodomy between consenting adults. Gittings, founder of New York’s chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis, and Kameny, cofounder of the Washington, DC branch of the Mattachine Society, were the first activists to march for Q equality in a picket at the White House on April 17, 1965. Seven men and three women protested the “Lavender Scare,” the government’s policy of firing Q workers.

Disclosure, now on Netflix, depicts the history of how cisgender filmmakers have portrayed trans persons in movies, influencing how trans people understand themselves. A *Them* article describes 15 of the most impactful moments from the documentary. <https://www.them.us/story/the-15-most-powerful-moments-in-disclosure>

Cortege of John Lewis Honors Q People

The hearse carrying civil rights legend Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) stopped at Atlanta's rainbow crosswalks in remembrance of his support for Q equality. In 1996, Lewis spoke against the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), calling it "cruel" and a "mean bill." He maintained, "Marriage is a basic human right. You cannot tell people they cannot fall in love."



About two years ago, Angel Cox-Colbert watched the lack of support for her daughter's friend who came out. She said that "no one was threatening or aggressive" but used "a lot of religious rhetoric, which was aggressive in a 'nice' way." She wrote a post with do's and don't's for straight people when someone comes out to them.

- * Don't say "I don't agree with or condone that lifestyle."[T]hey're not asking for your permission.
- * Do say, "ok" when you find you can't be supportive.
- * Don't bring up religion.... I guarantee I can find things in the Bible that doesn't coincide with YOUR life just as easily.
- * Do say, "ok" when you find you can't be supportive.

To my friends, family, any of my children's friends, or a complete stranger for that matter: if you're gay, lesbian, transgender, or queer, I got you. You're safe with me. You're supported. You're loved.

Psychologist Evelyn Hooker, A Prime Mover for Q Rights

June 26, 2020 was the fifth anniversary of legalized marriage equality in the United States because of a Supreme Court ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*. UCLA psychologist Evelyn Hooker, who began her work in the 1940s and 1950s, was partially responsible for the progress. Gay student Sam From introduced her to his community of productive, well-adjusted artists, engineers, philosophers, etc. and asked her to "study people like us." She published her work in 1957, but attitudes didn't change for many years without activism. Protesters caused the American Psychiatric Association to no longer classify homosexuality as a mental illness in 1974; 13 years later the APA decided therapy could not and should not "cure" homosexuality.

Hooker headed a study group on homosexuality for the National Institute of Mental Health in 1967. Its report recommending the overturn of sodomy laws was cited in both *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003) and *United States v. Windsor* (2013). Founded in 2001, the Williams Institute, also at UCLA, is based on the belief that research can undermine biases and inform public policy debates. Their work provided information for all three cases in the Supreme Court's decision opposing employee discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation. The Williams Institute's judicial training program provides the latest researching into well-being of Q people. The evidence shows that discrimination causes harm and pro-Q rulings reduce the gap in reported happiness between Q and straight people.

People Who Make a Difference



Owen Bondono, a transgender man, has been named Michigan Teacher of the Year. He said his gender identity helps him understand and communicate to his students, "everything else takes a back seat" when they don't feel safe in school. He added, "I want students to see that they are supported and loved and that their future is possible. I want parents of LGBTQ students to see that their children have a future." The state received over 400 nominations for Michigan Teacher of the Year, "an important advocate and ally for teachers and

students," according to the state's Superintendent of Education. Bondono is now a candidate for National Teacher of the Year.

Mary L. Trump, in her new book about "Uncle Donald," shared her lesbian identity with the world. After the publication of *Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created the World's Most Dangerous Man*, she was interviewed for *The Advocate*. She discussed her lonely life as a lesbian in a homophobic family, Donald Trump's feelings about Q people, and a message about him for the Q community. <https://www.advocate.com/exclusives/2020/7/27/mary-l-trump-growing-gay-anti-everything-family>



Jun Young, brought up in a rigid religious family in the Philippines, knew he was gay at the age of 12 but didn't come out until he was 45 because he was taught that being gay is against God's will. Now he is the founder of Beloved Arise, a Christian group celebrating and empowering Q youth of faith. The group encourages Q youth to be proud of their identity and see themselves as part of "God's creation." During Pride Month, they hosted the first Queer Youth of Faith Day.

Rae Garringer never met any Q people while she was growing up on a West Virginia farm in the 1980s and 1990s. Now Garringer, creator of Country Queers, has a podcast for an oral history project documenting experiences of Q people living in rural towns from Arizona to Vermont. More here: <https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/country-queers-shares-joy-pain-rural-lgbtq-life-n1232516>



Notes from PFLAG

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 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 Q people as well as their families and friends are welcome.

During Pride Month, the Seattle School Board unanimously passed a resolution in support of Q people—considering all gender bathrooms in new school construction, prioritizing Q sensitivity training for teachers and other staff, adding Q culture and identity in curricula, and renaming a school for a Q pioneer. Nonbinary students can the mark “X” for gender, and transgender students may be called by their preferred pronouns and use locker rooms appropriate for their gender identity.

Media Matters:

Two years ago, Scarlett Johansson was intended to play a transgender man in the upcoming film *Rub & Tug*. She has withdrawn and a transgender man will be cast as Dante “Tex” Gill in the television program. Out and proud, Gill (right) ran Pittsburgh massage parlors in the 70s and 80s.



According to a sweet two-minute film released by his Japanese creators, Godzilla, the 400-foot tall reptilian “King of the Monsters” who has spent nearly 70 years destroying cities, has a transgender child. Godzilla gives the child a show of support after she reveals she feels like a girl but generally identified as a boy. You can watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xG1TOURuTWw>

Bisexual actress Javicia Leslie will be the first Black to play new CW *Batwoman*, lesbian Ryan Wilder, after Ruby Rose left the series.



OCC PFLAG Calendar

Because of the policy preventing gatherings, protecting people from COVID-19 infection, meetings in July will be using Zoom.

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:

August 12, 6:00 pm

August 26, 6:00 pm

September 9, 6:00 pm

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

Meeting ID: 292 522 285

Email pflagocc@gmail.com for information about joining.

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)
_____ 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:

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