



Oregon Central Coast Chapter

August 2014

Jeanne St.John/
Ineka Estabrook , Co-Chairs
Deb Lyman, Secretary
Debbie Spicer, Treasurer
Nel Ward, Newsletter Editor
nelward@charter.net
nelsnewday.wordpress.com
Contact: PO Box 2172,
Newport, OR 97365
(541)265-7194
pflagocc@gmail.com

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans-gendered 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.

Stand with VOZ Workers

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development has refused a \$75,000 grant to the Portland-based VOZ Workers' Rights Education Project because the organization is linked with another Latino group, National Council of La Raza, that supports LGBT people.

After the Catholic organization told VOZ that they could either get the money or keep their connection with La Raza, workers said that they would rather lose their grant than lose their principles. VOZ had hoped to use the money from the grant to provide health insurance to its staff and keep alive its state-wide campaign to stop wage theft. You can protest the Catholic group's action at

<http://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/catholic-foundation-withdraws-workers-rights-group-funding-over-lgbt-equality>



This Past Month's progress toward marriage equality:

As of July 25, 44 percent of Americans live in 19 states plus DC that have adopted full marriage equality, with an additional 4 percent in 3 states with civil unions or domestic partnerships. Another 36 percent live in 14 jurisdictions where pro-marriage equality rulings have been stayed pending appeal, and 21 percent live in 22 jurisdictions that ban same-sex unions and/or where court rulings still are pending. This information doesn't include the ruling on July 28, when a circuit court overturned Virginia's ban on marriage equality. Details on p. 3. Map at <http://www.marriageequality.org/national-map>

PFLAG OCC's "Show & Tell" Special



Instead of the regular PFLAG meeting in July, our chapter hosted visitors from the National & Regional PFLAG organizations. Cesar Hernandez, Field and Policy Manager for PFLAG National, and Dawn Holt, PFLAG NW Regional Director and president of PFLAG Portland, visited three Oregon PFLAG chapters—ours was first on their mini-tour. [Left: PFLAG chairs Ineka Estabrook (left) and Jeanne St. John stand on either side of Cesar Hernandez and

Dawn Holt.]

The guests were delighted by the “Show & Tell” Reception at the Embarcadero where we enjoyed appetizers and adult beverages while 25 coastal PFLAG supporters shared some of the highlights of the first six years of PFLAG OCC. Several in the room had been to the first meeting in July 2008—and had the newspaper clipping to show! Our PFLAG OCC scrapbook was passed around so everyone could see “Great Moments” in our chapter’s story. President Linda Yoder and several visitors from the Florence Chapter, were warmly welcomed.

Special guest Bill Hall, Lincoln County Commissioner responsible for Human Services, spoke about PFLAG’s on-going advocacy for LGBTQ and especially our leadership in support of LCSD’s Bully Prevention efforts. The County Commission’s annual proclamations lend support to schools and communities working to change the norms for behavior. Thanks to PFLAG, “I’m an Upstander, not a Bystander” has become a common theme throughout the county. Bill has been a great friend to our PFLAG chapter and the LGBTQ community. Thanks, Bill!

David Gomberg, our District’s Oregon State Representative, has been a frequent guest at PFLAG meetings and events. He is a long-time supporter of rights for all as well as a long-time outspoken advocate, including work with Salem’s Human Rights Commission. Gomberg worked in post-Apartheid South Africa with those who lived through this passage to freedom, and he compares their struggle to that of LGBTQ people in Oregon and around the world. We appreciate his on-going enthusiastic support.

Don McDonald and Mindy Baxter represented PAADA (Partnership against Drug & Alcohol Abuse) and Teen Justice Panels to share their experiences with PFLAG and the semi-annual Youth Leadership Academy program. Collaborating with PAADA and Lincoln Conflict Resolution, PFLAG has led workshops on LGBT 101 and Bully Basics for the 50 LCSD high school students who attend each academy. LGBT students and issues are fully integrated into the planning and presenting of Academy sessions.

Mindy Baxter spoke about an LGBT teen, referred to Teen Justice Panel after a violent incident with another student, who was severely traumatized by her encounter with the school and the police. Her experience with the Teen Justice Panel and having a PFLAG advocate on her panel was life-changing and perhaps life-saving. She will serve on future panels and has made a video about her experience. (Continued on p. 5)

Politics on Our Side

Steps toward legalized marriage equality in the United States during the past month:

Virginia: A decision from the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals striking down the state's ban on same-sex marriage was the latest in a string of court rulings supporting LGBT people. Same-sex couples can get married 21 days after the decision on July 28 unless defendants file to stay the ruling or ask for a full-court review. The decision should impact bans not only in Virginia but also in other circuit court states of North Carolina, South Carolina, and West Virginia. This is the third circuit court to strike down marriage equality bans since the Supreme Court ruled last summer against DOMA's Section 3.

North Carolina: After the 4th Circuit Court ruling on Virginia, Roy Cooper, state attorney general, said he will no longer defend his North Carolina's constitutional ban.

Florida: A state trial court struck down the state marriage equality ban on July 25, two weeks after a judge had overturned the ban for Monroe County. The state court also issued a stay pending any appeal.

Colorado: On July 23, the 25th district court ruling against a marriage equality ban struck down Colorado's ban on same-sex marriage. The court also imposed a temporary stay until a potential appeal could be heard and ordered the Denver County clerk to stop issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The stay does not affect Boulder and Pueblo counties, allowing these jurisdictions to continue issuing marriage licenses to LGBT couples.

Oklahoma: A three-judge panel of the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down a marriage equality ban on July 17 by upholding a lower court ruling but issued a stay of the ruling pending an appeal. The same court struck down Utah's ban last month. The decision also impacts bans in Kansas and Wyoming. The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday has issued an emergency stay that at least temporarily prevents Utah same-sex marriages from being recognized until the 10th Circuit Court hears the case. An

interesting sideline to the fight for marriage equality is that the two Republican Attorney Generals, John Swallow and Mark Shurtleff, who were instrumental in fighting against same-sex marriage during the appeals have been arrested. The long list of federal charges against them includes multiple charges of bribery, tampering with evidence, tampering with a witness, obstructing justice, and engaging in a "pattern of unlawful activity."

Kentucky: A federal judge struck down the state ban on marriage equality on July 1.

Alaska: Although the state does not permit marriage equality, same-sex partners are entitled to survivor benefits under the workers' compensation law, according to the state's Supreme Court.

Connecticut: The state's highest court has ruled that some legal rights of same-sex couples are retroactive to predate the state's 2008 adoption of marriage equality and earlier approval of civil unions. The decision allowed a widow to sue a doctor for medical malpractice for the death of her wife which occurred before the state adopted marriage equality.

California: Gov. Jerry Brown on Monday has signed a bill to replace the words "husband" or "wife" with "spouse" in the state's constitution.

The Puyallup Tribe has become the tenth Native American tribe to legalize same-sex marriage. Some of these tribes are in states that ban marriage equality.

Upcoming Cases: The 6th U.S. Circuit Court will hear arguments for Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, and Tennessee on August 6. The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments regarding overturned marriage equality bans in Indiana and Wisconsin on August 26. The court also denied requests that the states' appeals be heard before the full 10-member court instead of a three-judge panel, as is customary. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court will hear arguments about cases in Nevada and Idaho on September 8. Other affected states from that court's rulings are Alaska, Arizona, and Montana.

California: The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to hear an appeal to a ruling from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals that upholds that state's law banning "ex-gay" therapy to minors.

United States: President Obama has signed an executive order stopping job discrimination against LGBT people working for federal contractors. It is now illegal for these companies to use sexual orientation or gender identity in firing or harassing employees.

Europe: The European Court of Justice has ruled that being a gay or bisexual man should not ban him from giving blood in many European countries. The EU directive clearly states any group that engages in high risk sexual behavior should be banned from giving blood, but homosexuality is not inherently risky.

Singapore: Officials have reversed their intention to collect LGBT youth books from public libraries and destroy them. *And Tango Makes Three* and *The White Swan Express: A Story about Adoption* will be returned. *Who's in My Family?: All about Our Families* had already been destroyed when the decision to pulp the books was reversed. Religious conservatives in the wealthy city-state of 5.4 million people have become increasingly vocal in opposing LGBT rights.

Uganda: The United States has replaced the anti-gay Inter-Religious Council of Uganda as a contractor for HIV/AIDS services in the country because of its highly repressive anti-LGBT laws. This move follows the U.S. action in late June to cut aid to Uganda, impose visa restrictions, and cancel a regional military exercise.

PFLAG at Yachats La De Da Parade



Dozens of PFLAG supporters joined to walk in this delightful parade. We met early to prepare signs and share our rainbow gear. Everyone had a great time—and PFLAG and LGBT people got a lot of love and support from the friendly crowd. See you at next year's parade!—Jeanne St.John

Lesbian Police Chief Reinstated

After almost three months without a job after a new mayor fired her for a "questionable" lifestyle, Latta's (SC) police chief, Crystal Moore, is back with the approval of 69 percent of the voters. They said that her dedication to the town over the past 20 years was more important than her sexual orientation. As long ago as 1989, high school student Moore worked part time as a police dispatcher and helped cut down tree limbs after the devastation of Hurricane Hugo. This past February, she checked as many people as possible after an ice storm left the town's 1,400 residents without power for days.

Mayor Bullard said he had fired Moore for insubordination, but a skeptical town council member secretly—and legally—taped conversations with the mayor ranting about Moore being a lesbian. Bullard admitted to his bigoted remarks but offered no apologies. The town reinstated Moore through an election to strip the mayor of his power.

Until her firing, Moore had not been an activist although she took her partner to civic festivals. Now she talks to LGBT groups in the state about once a week and encourages laws to stop discrimination against LGBT people. The town is arranging a fundraiser to help her pay for her almost \$20,000 in legal bills.



PFLAG OCC's "Show & Tell" Special Event

(Continued from p. 2)

Ineka Estabrook, PFLAG OCC Co-chair, talked about her work with all the GSA advisors in Lincoln County and plans for our fall GSA Conference for training and supporting the clubs. Newport High GSA president McKenzie Figuracion described their school's Upstander Week which was combined with Day of Silence for an excellent school-wide assembly and events.

Clergy were well represented. Susan Church, Episcopal Vicar at St. Luke's in Waldport and St. Stephen's in Newport, shared stories of the growth of those two small churches in the 25 years she's been here. They have grown from some distinctly negative experiences in the early 1990s to deep acceptance and support in recent years. Both churches include support for PFLAG as one of their Peace & Justice ministries; St. Stephen's provides their comfortable parish hall for meetings and events.

Rev. Ardis Letey and Rev. Elizabeth Jones of Toledo Methodist spoke of their individual and joint journeys within the Methodist church—and in their own lives. Toledo Methodist has provided strong leadership in welcoming LGBTQ members and leaders in their congregation and in support of many PFLAG events, especially the Love is Love Valentine Parties.

Rhonda Harman, Director of Family Ministry at Atonement Lutheran Church, described the joy of being totally accepted and welcomed there. She and Cathy Deveroux, her partner of 38 years, were recently married by Pastor Ed Milliken at a Sunday service.

Long-time Straight Ally and professional design artist Orpha Barry described the fun of our annual Love Is Love Valentine parties for young and old, gay and straight. Orpha and the Toledo Methodist Church Ladies transformed the lobby of the OCCC into a delightful party venue.

Rhonda Jantzen shared her newspaper clipping about the exploratory PFLAG meeting held in July 2008. She said she was shocked to see "Gay Support Group to Meet" as the headline and could not believe such an event was actually happening. PFLAG has helped Rhonda become a whole different person from Ron Jantzen who attended that first meeting.

Cesar and Dawn were delighted with the event and took our handouts and materials to share with other chapters around the country. They were especially happy to see how PFLAG had developed partners and support throughout the community.—Jeanne St. John

Celebration!

When Minnesota became the 12th state to legalize gay marriage in May 2013, the state showed its pride by lighting up the 1-35W bridge, which had collapsed in 2007.



People Who Make a Difference

This photo of **Jessica Urbina** won't be in the yearbook at San Francisco's Sacred Heart Cathedral High School, but it's made a difference. Officials removed the photo because Urbina wore a tuxedo instead of a dress. Students, including Urbina and her girlfriend Katie Emanuel, reacted by wearing ties and bow ties and flooding Twitter with messages of support at #JessicasTux. School principal Gary Cannon expressed pride for the protesters, and the school issued a public apology on its website.



Akie Abe, 51-year-old spouse of conservative Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, proudly took part in a gay pride parade in Japan last April. She also posted photos of herself at the event with the statement: "I want to help build a society where anyone can conduct happy, enriched lives without facing discrimination."

Col. Leah G. Lauderback has been named head of the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) which provides intelligence reports to the White House and Congress. At the change of command, she recognized her wife, Brenda, who she married in Carmel (CA) last spring.



With her appointment to the Washington (state) Supreme Court, Justice **Mary Yu**, 56, has become the first openly LGBT justice as well as the first Asian American to serve on this court. She replaces Justice James Johnson, the court's most conservative member.



Actor **Maulik Pancholy**, 39, has been appointed to President Obama's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Earlier he got engaged to Ryan Corvaia, his partner of more than nine years, at the Taj Mahal.

PFLAG Family Picnic, Sunday, August 17

Bring a friend and food to share for our annual PFLAG Family Picnic at the park near the Yaquina Bay Bridge Lighthouse Park—between the bridge and the lighthouse on the west side of Hwy 101. We'll be there from 1:00 to 4:00 pm to share food and fun with PFLAG and Welcoming Church members.

Don't forget a jacket—our picnics sometimes have cool weather—but we offer lots of warmth and fun! It's a potluck, so bring what you like (we'll have plates, cups, utensils, etc.), and we'll share great food with great PFLAG-friendly people.

More News from around the U.S.

The military plans to begin rudimentary gender-identity treatment for Chelsea Manning. Manning was convicted a year ago of leaking classified information to WikiLeaks and sentenced to prison under the name Bradley Manning. She has been diagnosed with gender dysphoria.

On the last Sunday of June, 87-year-old David Knapp, forced out of the Boy Scouts in 1993 after 55 years of service when it was discovered that he is gay, marched with the Brooklyn chapter of Scouts for Equality that led the New York City Pride Parade. Also with the group, all comprised of former gay and straight scouts, was former BSA Salt Lake City Scoutmaster Peter Brownstein who was kicked out of scouting after he and his Eagle Scout son delivered pizzas to same-sex couples waiting to marry in Utah. All the marchers wore their Boy Scouts uniforms. The parade had more than 14,000 participants.

J.M. Atherton High School in Louisville (KY) has approved a transgender student nondiscrimination policy allowing students to use locker rooms and restrooms in accordance with their gender identities.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

August 17, 1:00-4:00 pm: PFLAG Family Picnic, Fishermen's Park at Yaquina Bay Bridge Lighthouse, Newport

August 24 , 11:00 am: Out Oregon Coast Women's Coffee, Café Mundo, Newport

September 5-7: Oregon Coast Pride, Lincoln City

September 10, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting—Honoring PFLAG Heroes, St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

September 13, 8:30 am-1:15 pm: PFLAG table, Newport Farmers Market

September 20, 3:00- 7:00 pm: PFLAG at Peace Celebration, Newport High School

September 22 , 11:00 am: Out Oregon Coast Women's Coffee, Café Mundo, Newport

The Coastal AIDS Network* monthly activities:

Second Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Activity Night" (call for information (541)994-5597)

Third Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Pizza Night" (Newport Abbey's Pizza)

Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Men's Pot Luck" (Locations vary! Call (541)994-5597 or email coastalaidnetwork@gmail.com for information)

We also try to have pizza in Tillamook or Pacific City. Email Dan, coastalaidnetwork@gmail.com or leave a message for him at (541)994-5597.

*CAN activities are open to everyone, regardless of HIV status or sexual orientation except for "Men's Pot Luck." Occasionally we bend that rule for special events.

Social LGBT Oregon Coast Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Out-Oregon-Coast/194768480642314>

"This court is aware that the majority of voters oppose same-sex marriage, but it is our country's proud history to protect the rights of the individual, the rights of the unpopular, and the rights of the powerless, even at the cost of offending the majority."-- Judge Luis Garcia in his ruling overturning Florida's marriage equality ban

Join PFLAG!

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

_____ Individual or Household (\$30)
_____ Student/Limited Income (\$20)
_____ 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: _____

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Oregon Central Coast PFLAG
P.O. Box 2172
Newport, Oregon 97365