



HeartBeat



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 122 ~ Summer 2014

Where it all began: The Origins of PFLAG-Olympia

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PFLAG of Thurston County (now known as PFLAG-Olympia) was started by a small group of citizens in 1993. The idea for creating some kind of advocacy organization in our community for gay/lesbian/bisexual people originated with a conversation between my husband Andy McMillan and me about our concern that anti-gay activities in Oregon (specifically Ballot Measure 9 and Lon Mabon's group, Oregon Citizens Alliance) were probably headed to Washington state next.

As a part-time Evergreen professor and independent trainer/consultant on gender and sexuality issues, I had many contacts in the local gay community. So, Andy and I had a meeting with leaders of gay-related organizations in Olympia (Curt Pavola, David Kindle, Kathryn Ford and others) and asked them what we could do to help our community to

prepare for this eventuality, especially since we were in the state's capital.

One attendee said, "We already have 20 gay rights organizations in this town. What we really need is a PFLAG." Shortly after that, Andy and I attended a GLBT rights rally at Sylvester Park where a young college student, Bryan Kirkpatrick, had a sign-up list for anyone interested in creating a PFLAG chapter. Andy and I were the only signers. We later met with Bryan at a downtown restaurant and planned a PFLAG organizing meeting at a local church.

At that meeting, we met Paul and Betty Beeman, who had a lesbian daughter and were recent members of the PFLAG chapter in Bellingham (they had just moved to Olympia). Paul was a retired Methodist minister. Betty had worked earlier as a secretary for Dan Evans, the former governor of Washington, while he was president of The Evergreen State College. We were thrilled they had come to join our efforts, and we left the meeting thinking, "Who better to be the face of this organization than the Beemans?!"

Paul and Betty served as co-presidents for many years. Andy and I were active board members for its first three years, Andy as treasurer and political advocacy chair; me as education chair and lead on many fund-raising activities. Other original board members included Kathryn Ford, Ron Hertel, and Stella Warner. Paul Beeman later was elected President of National PFLAG and served for several years.

Our goal was to launch Thurston County PFLAG and get it on a solid footing. Since then, many others have built on that foundation.

For more history, see the PFLAG website to read the first two HeartBeat publications. For more about Andy McMillan see page 2.



UPCOMING MEETINGS: *Bring a friend!*

PFLAG-Olympia meetings are held the **2nd Sunday of each month, 2-4 p.m.** at the **United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE, Olympia.** The first hour includes a welcome, introductions, support circles, and snacks. The second hour is our program.

Upcoming programs include:

June 8: PFLAG open house, library perusal and (hopefully) a special guest speaker or two from SPSSC's Diversity & Equity Center.

Capital City Pride, June 20-22!
We still need volunteers to march in the parade and work our PFLAG tent Sat./Sun.
Contact president@pflag-olympia.org. More info on events at <http://capitalcitypride.net/>.

July 13: Come Learn about activism and challenges in the LGBTQ+ deaf and hard of hearing community. www.deafrad.org.

August 10: Fellowship, Food and Friendship at Our Annual Picnic! See you at Priest Point Park Shelter #3, 1-4 p.m. (note the time change.) Potluck! Vegetarian/vegan & gluten-free options welcome.

** Note programs are subject to change. Check our website or FACEBOOK for updates!*

Our Mission — PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through:

- Support to cope with an adverse society,
- Education to enlighten an ill-informed public, and
- Advocacy to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

Have you paid dues or donated lately?

Contact our treasurer, Larry Kronquist at treasurer@pflag-olympia.org and he can check on your dues status. Or leave a message at our phone line at **360-207-1608**. **Donations are also always welcome!**

Andy McMillan

Born and raised in the South, Andy McMillan was an active supporter of equal rights for all, especially GLBTQ people. His father, a liberal Presbyterian minister, had marched and worked with Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Alabama during the civil rights movement.



In addition to co-founding Thurston County PFLAG, Andy volunteered for Hands Off Washington as a "bigot-buster," standing outside public places with HOW pamphlets in one hand and a Bible in the other. Andy testified at numerous legislative hearings about anti-gay bills, and created and co-facilitated several state-wide trainings on "Gays in the Workplace" in his agency, the Washington State Department of Ecology.

In 2005, at age 46, Andy was diagnosed with an aggressive form of multiple myeloma (bone marrow cancer). He died on March 6th of this year.

HeartBeat is a free publication of the PFLAG chapter in Olympia, Washington, now published quarterly. The editors are Alec & Gabi Clayton.

Unsolicited articles are welcome. The editors reserve the right to reject or edit material.

The deadline for the next issue is August 15

Mail submissions to:

HeartBeat
P.O. Box 12732
Olympia, WA 98508-2732

Or email to: newsletter@pflag-olympia.org

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Subscribe to the PFLAG-Olympia Alert List!

The PFLAG-Olympia Alert is a one-way announcement email listserv designed to inform our members and friends of upcoming events. To subscribe, go online to: <http://lists.pflag-olympia.org/listinfo.cgi/alert-pflag-olympia.org>



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

<http://www.facebook.com/PFLAG.Olympia>

NEW or RENEWAL PFLAG MEMBERSHIP

Please check the membership types you prefer:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Educator \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student/Low Income \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate \$500 |

New Renewal

Membership \$ _____

Add this amount as my tax-exempt gift \$ _____

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AND GIFT \$ _____

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PRINT NAME: _____

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- I want Olympia's quarterly newsletter *HeartBeat* print version only.
- I want Olympia's quarterly newsletter *HeartBeat* sent as email only.
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- I want to be added to the PFLAG-Olympia email alert list.

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PFLAG
Olympia, Washington

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

MEETS at 2PM on the second Sunday of each month at First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE, Olympia. It is handicap-accessible. In August we meet at 1pm for a potluck picnic in a local park.

DIRECTIONS: From Sylvester Park on Capitol Way and Legion Way, go 12 blocks east on Legion Way to Boundary Street. Turn left around the church. Park in the lot at 5th Avenue and Boundary and enter through the glass doors.

Mailing address:
PO Box 12732; Olympia, WA 98508-2732

For more information:
email: info@pflag-olympia.org

Or go to our website:
<http://www.pflag-olympia.org>