



HeartBeat

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays



PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 65 Sept-Oct. 2004

That's what PFLAG is all about

By Evelyn Hinken

The second Sunday of every month you'll find a dozen or so of your friends at a PFLAG meeting. We laugh, we cry. We tell stories on ourselves and we ask questions. We'll watch snippets of a movie or listen to speakers from like-minded organizations. When newcomers are brave enough to walk through the door, we welcome them with open arms and let them speak or observe. If the audience includes a very dear friend of mine, she'll ask incisive questions that make you think. Simple questions really, but you have to search your soul for an answer. Drat that graduate degree she's working on anyway. But I digress.

Being a member of the GLBT community is a 24 hour commitment. It is part of who we are and not something we turn on and off at will. For some of us, being GLBT defines our very essence and is always at the forefront of our decisions. Then there are some of us, or perhaps it's just me, who don't always consciously think about it. Sometimes relationships, work, fun, family take a much higher priority.

If you are reading this, you most likely are also a member of PFLAG. I'm going to go out on a limb here and state that being a PFLAG member is also a 24 hour commitment. Oh my! Think of the last time you spoke out in behalf of our community. Or shared information on resources. Or provided a listening ear and a hug. Advocacy, education and support. That's what PFLAG is all about. And that's why you are so important to our organization.

It's the members of PFLAG, with our individual and collective needs that shapes the direction of our meetings. It's important for all of you to voice those needs so we can create the best programs for you and our community.

But please don't attend the meetings just because of the programs. I attend the meetings specifically for the stories, laughter, tears, analysis of current events and whatever direction our discussion takes us. Because it's from these meetings that I draw my strength for the rest of the month.

Let us build our strength together. See you at the next PFLAG meeting!

The PFLAG Mission

To promote 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.

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



▼ SUNDAY, SEPT. 12, 2-4:30 PM

Video: "A Boy Named Sue"

We will show the video, "A Boy Named Sue." It's a documentary about a trans man's journey from pre-hormones through surgery.

▼ SUNDAY, OCT. 10, 2-4:30 PM

Thurston Marriage Coalition

Representatives from the Thurston Marriage Coalition will be here to talk about the latest developments in the battle for equal marriage rights in Washington. Thurston Marriage Coalition is a coalition of many groups in Thurston County, including PFLAG-Olympia, who are working toward overturning the state's Defense of Marriage act and giving gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders the same rights to marry that are enjoyed by heterosexuals.

PFLAG-Olympia meeting format

2:00-2:30 p.m.	Introductions
2:30-2:40 p.m.	Announcements
2:40-3:15 p.m.	Support
3:15-3:30 p.m.	Social time/snacks
3:30-4:30 p.m.	Program (see above)

"Cautious, careful people, always casting about to preserve their reputation and social standing, never can bring about reform. Those who are really in earnest must be willing to be anything or nothing in the world's estimation, and publicly and privately, in season and out, avow their sympathy with despised and persecuted ideas and their advocates, and bear the consequences." Susan B. Anthony



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.

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.



Letters, articles and requests for literature are welcome.

Mailing address:

PO Box 12732; Olympia, WA 98508-2732

*For information or to discuss personal matters with an understanding parent and experienced PFLAG member, CALL the PFLAG-Olympia HELPLINE:
(360) 866-0511*

Email: info@pflag-olympia.org
Website: <http://www.pflag-olympia.org>



AIDS Walk 2004
Sunday, September 26th
Tumwater Historical Park
Signup starts at 10 a.m.
Walk starts at 11 a.m.

Check our website at www.ucan-wa.org for details, registration forms to download, and instructions on how to be a team captain for your organization or business.

**We need your support
UCAN make a difference**

147 Rogers Street NW; Olympia
(360) 352-2375



BUY PFLAG-OLYMPIA GEAR

with the "Been Out Lately" graphic from our billboard campaign

- t-shirts ~ sweat shirts
- coffee mugs ~ mouse pads
- BBQ aprons ~ tile coasters
- canvas tote bags ~ boxer shorts



Buy yours now on the web at
http://www.cafeshops.com/pflag_oly

NEW or RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP

Please check the membership types you prefer:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Educator \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student/Low Income \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Advocate \$500 |

New Renewal

Active (attend when I can) or Supporting (seldom attend)

Membership \$ _____

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

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP AND GIFT \$ _____

I want Olympia's bi-monthly newsletter *HeartBeat* (which is mailed in an envelope with no identified return address).

I want the national quarterly *PFLAGpole* newspaper (which is not mailed in an envelope).

DATE: _____ PHONE: _____

Signed _____

PRINT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PFLAG Olympia, P O Box 12732; Olympia, WA 98508-2732

PFLAG is a tax-exempt non-profit 501(c)(3) organization not affiliated with any political or religious institution.

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

Unsolicited articles are welcome and are due by the 15th of even-numbered months. The editors reserve the right to reject or edit material.

The deadline for the next issue is 10/15/2004

Mail submissions to:
HeartBeat
P.O. Box 12732
Olympia, WA 98508-2732

Or email to: newsletter@pflag-olympia.org