



HEARTBEAT



PFLAG

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

PFLAG Olympia, Washington

Issue 85 ♦ January / February, 2008

On Getting (Gay) Married

By Brianne Pearson



When I was little, I always thought I'd get married someday (even though I never planned on wearing the traditional dress). At first, I assumed I'd be marrying a man. Now, I know better. And yet, even after I came out, I still harbored a hope that someday I'd get married, only now I know it will be with a woman.

Some gay people don't think we, as gay people, should get married because it's a product of a messed up tradition that ends up in unhappiness 50 percent of the time. Others think we should go ahead and get married but it shouldn't look anything like hetero marriage. Still others think we should hold out for the "real" thing. I say life is too short to wait for other people to decide that it's okay for me to pledge my love to my partner in front of family and friends. And yes, I do realize that anything we do isn't legally binding, but you know what? I don't care! I don't think I'll feel any more committed to my partner if we get to sign a contract that says we're legally bound together.

So, in June, my partner and I will be getting married and I'm always going to call it a wedding. I'm not going to call it a commitment ceremony. To me that sounds like something that you would do if you were committing yourself to a hospital or something and not throwing a party to celebrate love. And that's what it means to me, a celebration of our love for each other and the start of our family.

And yes, our ceremony will resemble that same one I thought about as a kid. But I'll be wearing a suit and tie and she'll be wearing a lovely dress. And we'll know, and our families and friends will know, that we are as bound together in love as any legally married couple and, hopefully, someday we'll get all the lovely tax breaks and other goodies that we can't get as a domestic partnership. Until then, I know that she'll be my wife and I'll be hers and I can't ask for anything better than that.

▼ SUNDAY, JAN, 13 2-4:30 PM

GLBTQ Trivia—Join us for a fun game of trivia and learn about all the letters in the acronym. We'll have our usual introductions, announcements and support, but the last hour will be just for fun.

▼ SUNDAY, FEB. 10, 2-4:30 PM

Diversity at school—Representatives from the North Thurston School District will do a presentation on their diversity program.

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

Jeff's Transition

Nope, I'm not transitioning MTF. Instead, I'm changing my role in PFLAG Olympia from President to Treasurer. Alec Clayton and Brianne Pearson are assuming the roles as co-presidents, so that I can devote my energies to keeping our finances understood.

For me, this transition highlights the value of support during change. The PFLAG board members have been wonderful, "rolling with the punches" to make sure we continue to operate as an able organization, when things weren't going as smoothly as hoped.

I also feel extremely lucky to build on past experience, to be able to pick up from my predecessors. Catherine and Gib put our records on "Quicken" software, and my taking over record entry has highlighted how valuable their meticulous attention to detail has been.

Becoming treasurer represents an opportunity for me to learn new skills. Somehow, "treasurer" seems more intimidating than "president" (don't ask me why), but I'm looking forward to the challenge it represents - I like learning.

Of course, there is a bit of disappointment in not finishing

out my four-year term as president. It's been EXTREMELY rewarding, representing this unique, wonderful group of people. On the other hand, it will be fun watching Brianne apply her amazing enthusiasm and energy to this increased responsibility/exposure. I'm grateful that Alec will be there too, with his great energy, extensive experience, and steadfast commitment to making everything go smoothly.

As a final word as President, I'd like to remind everyone that great progress is being made. Even if all the legislation we wish for hasn't passed, there are discussions going on that would have been unheard of 10 years ago. And I'm confident that changes can only be for the better once folks start having compassionate talks about GLBT rights. But, we can't afford to be complacent. Keep demanding equal rights, in any forum you can.

Thanks for a wonderful year, and for all your support. May this next year be a great one, too, in whatever roles we find ourselves in.

With deepest gratitude,
Jeff Loyer

Where Do My Dues Go?

One of the benefits of taking over as treasurer is finally understanding where my dues go. I thought others might like to know that also, so here's an explanation...

We ask the following for dues:

- Individual: \$35
- Household: \$50
- Student/Senior/Low Income: \$15

For every paying member household, we're obligated to send the PFLAG-National \$15 annually (in October), to support PFLAG's national's efforts. Anything above that, we use for our work. For instance, if we receive \$50 from a member, we will send \$15 to PFLAG-national, and apply \$35 to our chapter's operation.

Some of our main expenses are: newsletter supplies and mailing; rent, and telephone. In general, we're able to cover the cost of brochures by selling items at Super Saturday and Pride.

All membership and donations are tax-deductible.

For 2007, we have 33 paying members (though some more may come in before the end of the year).

I hope this helps folks understand PFLAG Olympia's finances, and your dues. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Your treasurer,
Jeff Loyer

PFLAG

Olympia, Washington

MEETS at 2PM on the second Sunday of each month at First United Methodist Church, 1224 Legion Way SE, Olympia (except in August when we have our annual picnic at a local park.) 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>

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NEW or RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP

Please check the membership types you prefer:

- Individual \$35
- Household \$50
- Senior/Student/Low Income \$15

New Renewal

Membership \$ _____

Add this amount as my tax-exempt gift (thank you!) \$ _____

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 newsletter *PFLAGpole* (which is not mailed in an envelope).
- I want to be added to the PFLAG-Olympia email alert/announcement list (include your email address.)

DATE: ____/____/____ PHONE: (____) _____ - _____

SIGNED: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Mail with your check to: PFLAG Olympia, P O Box 12732; Olympia, WA 98508-2732

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Subscribe to the PFLAG-Olympia Alert list

The PFLAG-Olympia Alert is a one-way announcement e-mail listserv designed to inform our members and friends of upcoming events, programs, and more. Email updates are sent out prior to each of our the regular meetings and whenever something comes up that we think that our list subscribers might want to know about. Since this newsletter is published only every other month, the alert list provides an opportunity for more timely announcements. To subscribe, go online to:

<http://lists.pflag-olympia.org/listinfo.cgi/alert-pflag-olympia.org>

“Homophobia is like racism and anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry in that it seeks to dehumanize a large group of people, to deny their humanity, their dignity and personhood.”

Coretta Scott King