



PFLAG Phoenix Newsletter

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February 2016

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Greetings!

February is all about LOVE! And LOVE of all kinds!

PFLAG Phoenix loves to support, educate, and advocate for and on behalf of the LGBTQ community. We love to see unconditional love and acceptance emerge from confusion and fear.

We also love volunteers! If you'd like to know more about ways you can help our chapter, check out our many volunteer opportunities on our [Volunteer page](#), or email us at info@pflagphoenix.org.

And if you have not checked out our [new website](#), now is the time to do it!

Don't forget to "like" (or LOVE) our [Facebook page](#) if you haven't yet!

Sincerely,
And with lots of LOVE,

PFLAG Phoenix
602.843.1404



AGRA Arizona Gay Rodeo

The rodeo is coming to town and WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS!

The annual [AZ Gay Rodeo](#) is coming to [Corona Ranch and Rodeo Grounds](#) at 29th Avenue and Baseline Road in Laveen. It will be Friday - Sunday, February 12-14, 2016. For a detailed schedule of events, click [here](#).

AGRA has been a long-time supporter of PFLAG Phoenix. To show our LOVE, many PFLAG volunteers will be there selling beverage tickets.

We still have many shifts to fill on Saturday (13th) and Sunday (14th) and we need your help! We will have two tables that will need volunteers. The shifts for one table start at 9 am and run til 10 pm and the shifts for the other table start at 10 am and run til 10 pm. All shifts are 3 hours long. If you can work a shift on either Saturday or Sunday, please send an e-mail to info@pflagphoenix.org.

If you sign up for a shift, you get free admission to the rodeo for the whole day of your shift (a \$15 value), but you will have to pay \$5 for parking. It's a fun volunteer opportunity that requires no heavy lifting, roping, or cattle branding (you just sit at a

table and just enjoy the action).

Independent Equality Award

PFLAG Phoenix would like to congratulate two strong and tireless advocates who live right here in our own backyard. These two wonderful people have been honored by The Human Rights Campaign with the Independent Equality Award.



Maria DeNicola, owner and founder of [Senza Pelo Med Spa](#), and [Dr. Toby R. Meltzer MD, PC](#) of Scottsdale have dedicated their careers to helping the transgender community. Maria opened Senza Pelo to provide permanent hair removal and other services over 33 years ago, and since then has become legendary as one of the strongest allies to a community that all too often is marginalized in society. Dr. Meltzer provides his medical services to approximately 200 transgender persons a year. Maria and Dr. Meltzer often collaborate as a team, and have become widely known throughout Arizona & the rest of the country for their exemplary standards, sensitivity, and commitment to support for all who walk through their doors.

We'd love you to be there when they receive this amazing honor! We invite you to come to the 2016 HRC Awards Gala February 27th at the Sheraton Grand Phoenix. It is a great opportunity to come together and celebrate how far we've come in the journey to equality.

Tickets are going fast, so hurry! For complete information, email azlaser@gmail.com or purchase your ticket at the [HRC AZ Gala 2016](#).

February support meetings

Friday	February 5	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Tempe
Tuesday	February 9	6:30pm - 7:30pm	Native American

Wednesday	February 10	2:00pm - 3:30pm	Beatitudes Campus
Thursday	February 11	7:00pm - 8:30pm	North Scottsdale
Monday	February 15	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Central Phoenix
Friday	February 26	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Fountain Hills

News and Notes

- PFLAG Tucson and the LGBT-Straight Alliance Fund of the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona are joining together to award several \$1,000 scholarships to LGBT students and, for the first time, straight allies committed to LGBT rights. Applicants can be a graduating high school senior, undergraduate student or graduate student from southern Arizona attending an institution of his or her choosing or students coming to southern Arizona to attend a college or university here. Application materials are now available on [PFLAG Tucson's website](#). For further information you may also contact PFLAG Tucson at 520-360-3795, pflagtuc@pflagtucson.org, P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 85740. The application deadline is March 31, 2016, with award decisions to be made in mid-April followed by an awards reception on May 4, 2016 at the Ward VI City Council Offices.
- If you are not a **PFLAG Phoenix** member, but considering it, it's never been easier than now to join. We have 4 EASY ways in which to make it official. [Just go to our website](#) and you can either pay online with a credit card or paypal, OR donate via **The United Way** using a credit card and the code "1016", OR download a Membership/Donor card and pay with a check or credit card and mail it in, OR donate through the **Network for Good** with a credit card. All 4 of these options can be done on our website using the link above. Just follow the instructions provided on our website.
- [Quote of the day](#): "I am glad that we are talking about 'homosexual people' because before all else comes the individual person, in his wholeness and dignity, and people should not be defined only by their sexual tendencies: let

us not forget that God loves all his creatures and we are destined to receive his infinite love. - Pope Francis

- UTAH: Openly Lesbian Salt Lake City Mayor Jackie Biskupski Sworn In With Fiance At Her Side - [Read more here](#).
- Following a lengthy, and at times heated, public debate, the Oklahoma City Council narrowly passed an ordinance that will forbid discrimination against members of the LGBT community in the housing sector. [Read more here](#).
- 'Driving while gay'? Bill Introduced By A Democratic Missouri State Senator Would Have Cops Record "Perceived" Sexual Orientation Of Drivers. [Read more here](#).
- A Former Ex-Gay Leader Who Ran The Ex-Gay Ministry, "New Direction", Now Marries Gay Couples. [Video here](#) - well worth the watch.
- Mormon Church doubles down on their Gay Policy: It is "the will of the Lord" that same-sex couples be labeled "apostates" and that their children would not be allowed baptism and other LDS religious rites until they turn 18. [Read more here](#).
- 700 Evangelical Churches in Germany Vote To Conduct Marriage Ceremonies For Same-Sex couples. Landslide vote says 'no legal or theological reason' gays shouldn't wed. [Read more here](#).
- [Illinois Rep. Bob Dold](#) Becomes First Republican Member Of Congress To Endorse The Equality Act and [Illinois Sen. Mark Kirk](#) Becomes First US Senate Republican To Co-Sponsor The Equality Act.
- Chief Justice Roy Moore [Blocks Same Sex Marriage Licenses](#) In Alabama and earns himself a well-deserved smackdown response from the editorial board of the Birmingham News, titled: [Our view: Roy Moore is delusional about Roy Moore](#).
- Recently Elected Guyana President, David Granger, Proposes Decriminalizing Homosexuality (Guyana is the only country in South America where gay sex

acts remain illegal.) [Read more here.](#)

- [Russia's Duma voted on a bill that would ban LGBT citizens from coming out.](#) The proposed bill is only targeting gay men as women, according to the lawmakers, are more "reasonable" and can "manage their emotions." [Fortunately, the bill was rejected.](#)