



PFLAG
p h o e n i x

Parents, Families and Friends ^{And} of Lesbians and Gays
(and BiSexual, Transgender, and "Questioning" People)

PFLAG Phoenix Newsletter

Events and information

December 2015

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Greetings!

The holiday season can be a time of high anxiety, especially when things are rocky with your family.

Please remember that PFLAG is here to give you support and share ideas on how to survive the holidays. Stop in to one of our support meetings. We would love to see you!

Are you having a big Christmas dinner and have room for one more at your table? Consider inviting someone, who may not have anywhere else to go, over to share in the holiday spirit.

Wondering what else is going on in December? Check out our [calendar](#) at [our new website](#) where we list all our support meetings, plus other events that may be of interest.

We love our volunteers! If you'd like to know more about ways you can help our chapter, email us at info@pflagphoenix.org or check out our [Volunteer page](#) on the website where you can find all kinds of great opportunities to help out.

Don't forget to "like" our [Facebook page](#) if you haven't yet! And from PFLAG Phoenix, we wish everyone Happy Holidays.

Sincerely,

PFLAG Phoenix
602.843.1404

PLEASE NOTE: January 2016 Support Meeting Date Change



The January PFLAG Tempe meeting will meet on January 8th at 7 pm in the Media Room on the second floor of Dayspring Church. This meeting has been moved from our regular meeting time, Friday, January 1st, which is New Year's Day to Friday, the following week.

When you enter the church, turn right, and come up the ramp to the second floor of the church, and the media room will be the first room on your right. We'll see you there.

December support meetings



Friday	December 4	7:00pm-8:30pm	Tempe
Tuesday	December 8	6:30pm-7:30pm	Native American
Wednesday	December 9	2:00pm-3:30pm	Beatitudes Campus
Thursday	December 10	7:00pm-8:30pm	North Scottsdale
Monday	December 21	7:00pm-9:00pm	Central Phoenix
Friday	December 25	Canceled	Fountain Hills

Let's do the holidays up this month! Bring a family picture (for a little brag time) and a holiday goody (or an appetizer) to the support meeting of your choice and celebrate with your PFLAG family. And if you don't have time to make or purchase something, no worries, just bring yourself!

Membership Reminder

Have you joined/renewed your PFLAG Phoenix membership for 2015 yet? If your answer is no, please [click here](#) to join or renew online or by mail. And if you are not a member, we would like to take this time to share how important memberships are to our chapter.



About 20% of our chapter's annual income comes from memberships. Without our members, we would not be able to provide all the the valuable services that we currently do throughout the Phoenix metro area. Our chapter is unique in that we serve a very large area. In order to provide support to as many people as

possible, we hold monthly meetings in [FIVE different areas of the valley](#): Central Phoenix (McDowell Road & 2nd Street), Tempe (Elliott Road & McClintock Drive), North Scottsdale (N. Scottsdale Road & Pinnacle Peak Road), Fountain Hills (Fountain Hills Blvd & Glenbrook Blvd), and the Beatitudes Campus Retirement Community (on Glendale Ave, near 15th Ave). We also helped to establish PFLAG's first (and only) chapter dedicated to the [support of the Native American community](#) and their friends and allies.

PFLAG Phoenix is a grassroots 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is entirely run by volunteers. We have no paid positions. We are frugal with our budget in order to provide as much support, education, and advocacy as possible from the donations we receive. You do not need to be a member to take advantage of our services, but we encourage and appreciate it.

You can see all the other benefits of membership [here](#). Please take a moment to read our [2015 Membership Letter](#) and then consider joining or renewing [by mail, online](#), or in person at any of our support meetings.

Thank you!

News and Notes

- Three Republican Presidential Candidates, Ted Cruz, Mike Huckabee and Bobby Jindal, committed to speaking at a "National Religious Liberties Conference" in Des Moines, Iowa. The conference's chief organizer, Kevin Swanson, is a far-right pastor who frequently claimed that the government should put gay people to death, warned that the Girl Scouts and the movie "Frozen" turn girls into lesbians and blamed natural disasters on gay people and women who wear pants. [Read more here](#).
- Three Republican Presidential Candidates will not call out host, far-right pastor Kevin Swanson, for citing death for gays. [Read more here](#).
- A Utah judge who initially decided to take a baby away from her same-sex foster parents and place her in a home with heterosexual parents because "it was not in the best interest of children to be raised by same sex couples", has changed his mind after widespread criticism. [Read more here](#).
- Houston voters reject broad anti-discrimination ordinance, similar to those approved in 200 other cities. Mayor Annise D. Parker, along with many



others, accused opponents of fearmongering against gay people, and far-fetched talk of bathroom attacks, to generate support for repeal. [Read more here.](#)

- On the other hand, the city of Scottsdale (Arizona) appears poised to pursue creation of LGBT nondiscrimination ordinance. The Scottsdale City Council is moving forward with creating a draft ordinance to be presented to the general public in an effort to create nondiscrimination laws protecting the members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community while observing and protecting the civil rights of all residents. [Read more here.](#)
- Two interesting OP-Ed pieces about the defeat of Houston's anti-discrimination ordinance: [In Houston, Hate Trumped Fairness](#) and [Sex, Lies, and Houston.](#)
- An 11-year-old girl shames the 'One Million Moms' group for attack on her gay dads: 'This is none of your business'. [Read more here.](#)
- The "Marriage Act" has now been signed into law in the very Catholic country of Ireland. Same-sex couples can now marry! [Read more here.](#)
- The White House endorsed legislation Tuesday, Nov. 10 of this year that would amend the 1964 Civil Rights Act to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, plunging into the next front in the national battle over LGBT rights. [Read more here.](#)
- Mormon Church sharpens stand against same-sex marriage. Under the changes, same-sex couples who marry are apostates and are unwelcome in church congregations. Going further, the new policy states that the children of same-sex couples cannot be baptized in the church until they are 18 and then only if they disavow their parents. [Read more here.](#)