



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

October 2015

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It's October - the evenings will be getting cooler, the days won't be so scorching hot, and PFLAG begins its new fiscal year.

And it isn't just the weather that's a changin, check out our brand spankin [new website](#). We think you'll really like it.

If you haven't renewed your membership, [please take a moment to do so](#). We want to continue doing great things for the Phoenix-area LGBTQ+ community.

Quick Links

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Please "like" our [Facebook page](#) if you haven't yet!

Sincerely,

PFLAG Phoenix
[602.843.1404](tel:602.843.1404)

Phoenix Rainbows Festival

It is that time of year again. October is the month we enjoy "Arizona's Greatest StreetFair", the annual **Rainbows Festival**. The festival takes place at Heritage Square Park on Saturday, October 17th and Sunday, October 18th from 10:00am - 6:00pm. Admission to the festival is FREE!



More information on the festival can be found [here](#).

A Message from our Board of Directors

The PFLAG Phoenix Board of Directors can hardly find the words to express their debt of gratitude for all the hard work that has gone into the construction of our new website! We'd like to begin by saying "Thank You" to Kim Sullivan, our web manager, and Kris Schroeder from [2TechGirls](#). If you have not visited our [lovely new website](#) recently, please take the time to do it now. We are so thrilled with our website and we know you will be too. Thanks so much Kim and Kris!



October support meetings:

Friday	October 2	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Tempe
Tuesday	October 13	6:30pm - 7:30pm	Native American
Wednesday	October 14	2:00pm - 3:30pm	Beatitudes Campus
Thursday	October 8	7:00pm - 8:30pm	North Scottsdale
Monday	October 19	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Central Phoenix
Friday	October 23	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Fountain Hills

It's Membership Time!

Please join PFLAG Phoenix as an official member, or renew your existing membership for 2015/16

It's October 1st, which means our new membership year starts today. Many of you may have received (or will be receiving) [a letter](#) urging renewal of your PFLAG Phoenix membership. Our Phoenix Chapter membership year is aligned to that of National that begins on October 1 and ends the last day of September. If you have joined or renewed since July 1, 2015 it is being applied to the 2015-16 membership year.



As always, it does not cost anything to attend any one of our 6 valley support meetings or participate in any of our public advocacy functions. But we do encourage membership if you are able. All PFLAG Phoenix memberships include a \$15.00 annual membership in PFLAG National (except the \$20 special circumstances - no questions asked membership, or you opt out of National). Funds derived from memberships are combined with other donations and used for rents, insurance, literature, scholarship and other programs, and administration.

PFLAG Phoenix has been a grassroots 501(c)(3) non-profit organization since November 1978 and 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.

Again, you do not need to be a member to take advantage of our services, but we encourage and appreciate it. Unfortunately, we've experienced a significant drop in paid memberships during the past year, so if you don't know if you are current, please take a

moment to renew NOW!

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

Thank you!

A big congratulations to Pastor David Felten!



David Felten is the pastor of The Fountains United Methodist Church in Fountain Hills, AZ - a [Reconciling congregation](#). For years Pastor Felten has generously provided PFLAG Phoenix accommodations for our monthly [Fountain Hills support meetings](#). He has been a strong supporter of the LGBT+ community and of PFLAG Phoenix.

So it is with great pride that we congratulate Pastor Felten for being chosen to "receive the [Voice in the Wilderness Award](#) for his continuing support of LGBT+ rights, in spite of the enduring fierce opposition from fellow clergy in and around the Phoenix area. David performed the wedding of the first couple to obtain a same sex license in Arizona. He is the lone theological leader in Fountain Hills speaking for the rights of LGBTQ individuals and for progressive Christianity."

Please [click on over](#) to read more on why this wonderful pastor and straight ally to the LGBT+ community so richly deserves this award.

Saying good-bye to another supportive hero and straight ally

It is with great sadness that we announce that Rev. Jerry Ebbinga, a great friend to PFLAG Phoenix and a wonderful ally to the LGBT+ community, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 29, 2015. Jerry worked for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America's Council of Bishops throughout the western U.S., and eventually retired from Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Great Falls, Mont., to live in Fountain Hills.

Jerry did not slow down in retirement. In recent years he did great work to support LGBT+ people in ministry and he was a fixture at our PFLAG Fountain Hills support meetings. He was often the first to arrive and one of the last to leave. His wisdom, love, and compassion brought so much comfort to so many who attended those meetings. We will miss Jerry with all of our hearts. Our FH meetings will never be the same without him there.



Odds and Ends

- According to an [ABC/Washington Post poll](#) issued on Sept 15, there seems to be some erosion of support for so-called religious liberty due to the Kentucky clerk, Kim Davis, controversy.
- Obama to nominate first openly gay service secretary to lead the Army - [The Washington Post](#)

- The White House has hired its first openly transgender staff member. They announced Raffi Freedman-Gurspan's appointment on Tuesday. Freedman-Gurspan is an outreach and recruitment director for presidential personnel in the Office of Personnel. Transgender advocates say she is the first openly transgender official to serve in the White House. [Read more here.](#)
- And this is long overdue, let's hope they follow through, Queens Post Office may be named for **PFLAG** Pioneers, Jeanne and Jules Manford. [Read more here.](#)
- We know it's early, but it is time to start thinking about Scholarships. Our current fund is at \$2000 and any donations earmarked for the Scholarship fund will go directly into that fund, not the regular PFLAG fund. Check out [our website](#) for more information.
- PFLAG National Convention in Nashville, TN is Oct 16-18. This year's theme is We Are The Change. It is just a few short weeks away. [Register Now](#)
- **And on a final note**, the election of our 2015/2016 Board members is coming up soon. The election is open only to members in good standing (membership paid). Members will be contacted by email or US Mail beginning October 26th to take part in the nomination process for Pres., VP, Sec and Treas. The 41 current members plus all new members (memberships received by October 20th) will get the nominations request. Ballots received by email and USPS will be used for voting and must be filled out and sent back in by December 15, 2015. New officers will be notified and will fill their newly elected positions on January 1, 2016. (Please Note: members must have the permission of a person before nominating him/her and know that the person is willing to serve if elected and able to attend at least 4 of the 6 regular BOD meetings.)