Greetings,

March is known as the month that comes in like a lion, and out like a lamb. It's a great description for weather, but maybe not so much for what is going on right now in our lives. If you are feeling fearful, victimized, angry or like the news is coming at you so fast and furiously you don't know what to think or do, please know that PFLAG Phoenix is here for you. You are NOT alone. We are all in this together.

Speaking of MARCH: save the date to MARCH with us in the upcoming Phoenix Pride parade on Sunday, April 2nd! This is such a fun event and should not be missed by any PFLAG member. More details about the Gay Pride Parade can be found below.

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 for ways you can help.

Don't forget to "like" our Facebook page if you haven't yet!

Sincerely,

PFLAG Phoenix
602.843.1404

Come march with PFLAG Phoenix in the Pride Parade!

The Phoenix Pride Parade brings our diverse LGBTQ and allied communities together for a weekend of camaraderie and celebration of our past, present and future --- PLUS --- we also have a lot of fun!

The parade pushes off at 10:00am on Sunday, April 2nd, 2017. It begins at 3rd St & Thomas and ends at 3rd St & Indian School. We would like those who will be walking or riding with PFLAG Phoenix to get there between 9:00am to 9:30am. We will have cold water and two vehicles for transportation. Can't wait to see you there!
PFLAG National and GLSEN Relaunch #ClaimYourRights Campaign - Everything You Need to Know

GLSEN and PFLAG are joining forces to re-launch the #ClaimYourRights Campaign, to help anyone who has been affected by or has witnessed anti-transgender discrimination in our schools to file a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Education. Secretary DeVos clearly needs to better understand the extent of the daily pain and real barriers to well-being that the original Departmental guidance was designed to address and eliminate. We must see if her actions will live up to her words, and to the promises made by federal law and the United States Constitution.

GLSEN and PFLAG will do everything in our power to see to it that they do. What can you do? Here are handy tools and resources for you:

* Read PFLAG National’s statement on the relaunch of the #ClaimYourRights Campaign

* Get answers to your frequently asked questions on the rescission of Title IX guidance to transgender students.

* Provide important education to people in your community. Take the Claim Your Rights flyer with you to meetings and rallies.

* Promote local events on your PFLAG social media.

* Print a poster for your rallies.
  ** Protect Trans Youth 11x17 in
  ** Protect Trans Youth 18x24 in

* Help those affected by discrimination file a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights at the Department of Education

Thank you for everything you do to create a community where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

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March support meetings

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>7:00pm-8:30pm</td>
<td>Tempe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Check their website</td>
<td>7:00pm-8:30pm</td>
<td>Native American</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>2:00pm-3:30pm</td>
<td>Beatitudes Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>7:00pm-8:30pm</td>
<td>North Scottsdale</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>7:00pm-9:00pm</td>
<td>Central Phoenix</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>7:00pm-9:00pm</td>
<td>Mesa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>7:00pm-8:30pm</td>
<td>Fountain Hills</td>
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*General information on all of our support meetings can be found here.*

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### Guest speaker at the Central Phoenix meeting on March 20th

Please join us at our main meeting on Monday, March 20th at 7:00pm for our special guest, Todd Garrity. Todd will talk about his experience as a trans teen and discuss how families can best work together to support each other through transition and life challenges. He has a very unique perspective as a trained acupuncturist in discussing how ancient theory can be utilized in our modern lives to help us achieve balance and harmony within ourselves and within our society.

Todd Garrity is a transgender man who is passionate about preventing suicide in the transgender community through the ongoing education of healthcare providers, family members, coworkers, and support group facilitators. He is the owner and healthcare provider of The OM Flow, a Complementary Alternative Medicine Clinic in Denver, Colorado, specializing in Depression/Anxiety and transgender care. You can read more about Todd on his [website](https://somethothelight.com).

**Our Central Phoenix meeting is held at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1407 N. 2nd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004**

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### Guest speaker at the North Scottsdale meeting on March 9th

Please join us at our North Scottsdale meeting on Thursday, March 9th at 7:00pm for our special guest speaker, PFLAG Phoenix President, Geoffrey Dorsey. Geoffrey will be speaking to us about the tools and resources available to us through the newly re-launched #ClaimYourRights Campaign.

In the wake of rescinding guidance on Title IX protections for transgender students, Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, issued a statement that said in part: "At my direction, the Department's Office for Civil Rights remains committed to investigating all claims of discrimination, bullying and harassment against those who are most vulnerable in our schools." But in spite of those reassurances, there is still a lot of fear and confusion among transgender students and their families.

In light of these new developments and the uncertainty & fear that it is causing, we are going to dedicate a part of our North Scottsdale support meeting time discussing the #ClaimYourRights campaign and the tools and resources available to us.

For information on North Scottsdale’s new meeting location, please click [here](https://somethothelight.com).

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### Melrose on 7th Avenue Street Fair

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Please join us for the Melrose on 7th Avenue Street Fair on Saturday, March 4th from 11:00AM to 5:00PM. This is a FREE event and PFLAG Phoenix will have a booth there as well. It will be a lot of fun! Check out the Facebook page here.

**March PFLAG Phoenix Board of Directors meeting**

*Please note date change*

Normally our chapter's Board of Directors meet on the second Saturday of the odd months, from 10:00am to noon. This month the date has been changed from March 4th to March 18th. Meetings are held in an office space that is generously donated to us by Plaza Executive Suites at the Biltmore Office Plaza which is located at 2942 N. 24th St (Suite 114), Phoenix, AZ 85016. Directions can be found here.

Board meetings are open to anyone that would like to sit in. We welcome visitors! Anyone interested in getting more involved with PFLAG Phoenix is encouraged to attend and check us out! Get more information here.

**And finally, a BIG THANK YOU to all of our Gay Rodeo volunteers!**
Mr. John King, owner of Charlie’s, and Rodeo Director for the AGRA (Arizona Gay Rodeo Association), called to thank all of the volunteers who worked at the Rodeo this past February 18th and 19th. He also wanted to share his regret that there will likely be little, if any, proceeds to be distributed among all of the organizations participating. If you are one of those volunteers recruited by PFLAG Phoenix to sell drink tickets, you already know the weather was not good for the event this year. In fact, all remaining rodeo events were canceled by about noon on Sunday, for the safety of contestants and animals.

One last event was put together by one female who challenged two males to a mud wrestling contest in the arena. All three were tumbled and rolled in the mud so much so that it was difficult to declare a winner. Entertainment, which is normally extended to near midnight fell quiet early both Saturday and Sunday nights, allowing our volunteers to complete their duties by about 9:00pm.

Regardless of the bad weather, the Arizona Gay Rodeo will always be one of those big events we all look so forward to each year! We hope next year will be better for all involved. A big thank you goes out to all of our PFLAG Phoenix volunteers who worked this event.