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 celebrating Thanksgiving and have room for one more at your table? Consider inviting someone, who may not have anywhere else to go, over for Thanksgiving dinner.

And don't forget ... please "like" our Facebook page if you haven't yet and check out our new website too!

Sincerely,

PFLAG Phoenix
602.843.1404
info@pflagphoenix.org

Submit your nominations

It is time to start thinking about elections for 2017 PFLAG officers. Our by-laws require that each chapter member in good standing (current year membership dues paid) be afforded the opportunity to place the name(s) of individuals on the ballot for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Self-nominations are permitted and encouraged.

To qualify, a nominee must:

* Be a Chapter member in good standing
* Have given permission to serve in the position being nominated for
* Expect to be present for at least four of the six bi-monthly Board of Directors meetings. More info on Board of Director’s meetings can be found here.

If you are not a member, now is the time to become one (see below) so you too are able to provide direction and leadership either as a Board Member or an Officer in 2017.

Nominations can be mailed or e-mailed no later than 11/18 to:
November support meetings:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>November 4</td>
<td>7:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Tempe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Check their website</td>
<td></td>
<td>North Scottsdale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>November 9</td>
<td>2:00pm - 3:30pm</td>
<td>Beatitudes Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>7:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>North Scottsdale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>November 15</td>
<td>7:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Mesa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>November 21</td>
<td>7:00pm - 9:00pm</td>
<td>Central Phoenix</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>November 25</td>
<td>7:00pm - 8:30pm</td>
<td>Fountain Hills</td>
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Please note our north Scottsdale meeting has a new location, details are here. For more details on our new Mesa support meeting, click here. General information on all of our support meetings can be found here.

Guest speaker at the Central Phoenix meeting on November 21st

Dulce Juarez is Advocacy & Outreach Coordinator for the ACLU of Arizona. Dulce joined the ACLU on Monday, June 25th, 2012, the day the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the "show me your papers" provision of SB 1070, Arizona's racial profiling law. Her start date is significant because she is responsible for documenting civil rights abuses stemming from racial profiling laws like SB 1070 through community outreach, communications, and non-litigation advocacy.

Dulce came to the ACLU of Arizona after having worked as a campaign organizer for the ACLU of Northern California's Estamos Unidos campaign to raise awareness about immigrants' rights and petition in different states to end discriminatory laws like SB 1070 that encourage racial profiling. For more than 10 years she has been actively involved in migrant rights and the DREAMers movement, which has advocated for a pathway to citizenship for undocumented children, brought to the U.S. by their parents.

Dulce will be collecting stories on behalf of ACLU Arizona from LGBT Arizonans who have experienced discrimination. She also wants to hear from allies who believe in the values of hard work, freedom, and opportunity, and agree it's time to end discrimination against LGBT people across the state. So whether you identify as LGBT or as an ally, your voice matters. If you have ever been discriminated against at work for being LGBT, or denied housing because of your sexual orientation or gender identity, or been refused service in a restaurant or other public business because of who you are, we want to hear about your experience. Stories of discrimination help ACLU Arizona make clear that the lack of legal protections impact LGBT people every day.
Our Central Phoenix meeting is held at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1407 N. 2nd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004. More details about this meeting can be found [here](#).

**Please Join Us For A Special Guest Speaker At Our November Mesa Support Meeting**

Shirley Austin is an active supporter in the LGBTQ community since coming out as Trans in 2013. Shirley is currently on the Board of Trans Spectrum of Arizona (TSAZ), a member of PFLAG, a volunteer at Rebel & Divine UCC, a volunteer at Arizona Trans Youth Parents Organization (AzTYPO) and a volunteer with HRC Arizona and the Trans Inclusive Outreach Project.

Shirley is a small group facilitator at TSAZ support meetings for persons 18 and older. As a church group, Rebel & Divine UCC reaches out to "at risk" youth and young adults (14 thru 25) in the Phoenix area. Many of these youth and young adults have been turned away by churches, family and friends because they are LGBTQ. Some are with family or Foster Care, some are in housing programs, some in shelters and a few are homeless. AzTYPO is a support organization for Trans youth 18 and under with supportive parents, providing support to the parents and to the youth, the youngest is 3 years old.

Some of her highlights from 2016: Connecting people and organizations to bring awareness of the trans community. Completing "Suicide Alertness" training and "Suicide Intervention" training. Acting as the Adult Representative for Rebel & Divine for 2 Young Adults in the 2016 National Youth Event in Orlando, Florida and leading 4 presentations on "Living with AIDS". Shirley also provides sound and music at meetings and events, including the TSAZ Gala and Masquerade Ball.

The Mesa Support Meeting meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month @ First Evangelical Lutheran Church, 142 N. Date, Mesa 85201 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. This month's meeting is Nov 15th. See you there!

**A Message From Our President: It's Membership Time!**

Please join PFLAG Phoenix as an official member, or renew your existing membership for 2016/17

Would you please consider renewing your membership or joining PFLAG Phoenix again?

In the last several years the LGBTQ+ community has made great strides in gaining equality. We have gone from Domestic Partnerships to Civil Unions to Marriage Equality. Many states have workplace protections, however Arizona is not one of those states, and there is still much work to be done. **People can be fired for being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, or even perceived as LGBTQ.** It is estimated that 30% to 40% of homeless youth on the streets have been kicked out of their homes or have found living at home intolerable. High school and college students may be afraid to "come out" for fear of losing support for their education. Rents, educational materials, signage, business cards, and printing do come at a cost. Generous donors and membership renewals keep PFLAG Phoenix afloat. We have no paid staff and all work is done by volunteers. Please renew or join now to help us **support** our loved ones, **educate** families and friends, and advocate to advance strides gained in the past.
Sponsorships from which to choose. And remember, PFLAG Phoenix is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization. All donations are fully tax-deductible, as permitted by law.

Thank you for your past and ongoing support. And remember, membership is NOT required to attend any of our support meetings or public functions.

Best wishes,
Al Ellis, President, PFLAG Phoenix

Are you looking for a way to support PFLAG Phoenix but don't have the time to volunteer?

Does your employer participate in an annual campaign for United Way?
If your answer is yes, then we have great news for those of you who are looking for a good way to support PFLAG Phoenix but do not have the time to volunteer. United Way and United Way Bank of America have been very important sources of our (PFLAG Phoenix) income - approximately 20% in 2016. And anyone working for an employer who participates in an annual campaign for United Way may designate all or part of their donation to PFLAG Phoenix by entering agency code: 1016. And the best part is there are even some companies that match all or a percentage of these donations! Maybe yours, is one of them. We cannot express enough how much we appreciate these donors.

Attention Parents, Students, and Friends
It’s Scholarship Time!

Are you a deserving student or do you know a deserving student who could use some cash for school? PFLAG Phoenix is looking for outstanding members of the LGBTQ+ and gender variant community and straight allied students throughout the state of Arizona.

The PFLAG Phoenix Scholarship Fund is a $2,000 fund awarded to candidate(s) selected by the Scholarship Committee of PFLAG Phoenix.

For more details, please check out our website and download the 2017 PFLAG Phoenix Scholarship Application Packet
http://pflagphoenix.org/scholarships/

Download the 2017 PFLAG Scholarship Application Packet and get more information here.
Other November events

- **Sat, Nov. 12, 10am-12pm** - Please join us for our bi-monthly PFLAG Phx Board of Director's Meeting. New Attendees Are Always Welcome and Appreciated! It is a GREAT way to get involved. [More info here](https://inbox.google.com/u/0/snoozed).

- **Thurs, Nov. 17, 6pm-9pm** - GLSEN invites you to celebrate another incredible year of Safe Schools advocacy at the Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel for the Sparkle, Glitter, GLSEN Cocktail Party Awards and Award Ceremony. Click [here](https://inbox.google.com/u/0/snoozed) to purchase tickets.

- **Fri, Nov. 11, 5pm-9pm** - Join Joshua Tree Feeding at the Four Points by Sheraton (2532 W Peoria Ave, Phoenix) for the 2016 Masquerade Gala. This is going to be a great evening and it benefits a wonderful cause, the Joshua Tree Feeding Program. More info [here](https://inbox.google.com/u/0/snoozed).

- **Fri, Nov. 10, 5:30pm** - TRANSGENDER IN SCOTTSDALE! The city of Scottsdale will be hosting a free evening of Awareness at the Civic Center Library Auditorium. More info can be found [here](https://inbox.google.com/u/0/snoozed).