



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

September 2015

In This Issue

It's Membership Time

Scholarships

September support meetings

September guest speaker

Rainbows Festival volunteers

Other events of interest

We need volunteers

This and That

As we prepare to say goodbye to August and welcome a cooler September, let's look ahead to what's happening at PFLAG Phoenix in the coming months.

Our membership drive begins, Rainbows Festival is coming up, the PFLAG National Convention in Nashville is in October, and we can now begin building our Scholarship fund and thinking about the deserving candidates who will benefit.

Wondering what else is going on in September & October? Check out our calendar at the PFLAG Phoenix website to see when and where our support meetings are, plus other events that may be of interest.

And remember, we **love** our volunteers! If you'd like to know more about ways you can help our chapter, email us at info@pflagphoenix.org.

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

NOTE: We are publishing this newsletter a couple of weeks early as there are events that are happening in August that were not included in our last newsletter.

Sincerely,

PFLAG Phoenix
[602.843.1404](tel:602.843.1404)

Quick Links

Meeting times and locations

Become a member

About our chapter

Our Sponsors

It's Membership Time!

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

If you are a current member of PFLAG Phoenix, your membership will expire on September 30th (unless you joined between July and now - that counts as a 2015 membership). We hope that you will renew your membership and continue supporting the Phoenix chapter.

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 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](#). You can join/renew [by mail](#), [online](#), or in person at any of our [support meetings](#).

Thank you!

A word about PFLAG Phoenix Scholarships

It is time once again for PFLAG to begin thinking about our 2015 Scholarships. Last year we were able to award \$5,000.00 in scholarships and we felt so privileged to be able to do this. This year we have set up a separate account for our scholarship funds, so if you would like to donate to the scholarship fund to help an LGBTQA person through secondary education, your donation will go into a separate account, **NOT** into PFLAG's general fund.



This year we have designated \$2,000.00 for the scholarship fund, but we are hoping that this amount will grow. We want to award the biggest Boots and Ray Reed Memorial Scholarship ever to a pool of the BEST candidates ever. And we can do it with your help. Now is the time to start thinking about donating to this fund **AND** talking to your LGBTQ friends, family, and allies about submitting their applications on our website when they are asked. We intend to begin asking for applications in November and the cut-off for applications is January 31st.

September support meetings

Friday	September 4	7:00pm-8:30pm	Tempe
Wednesday	September 9	2:00pm-3:30pm	Beatitudes Campus
Thursday	September 10	7:00pm-8:30pm	North Scottsdale
Monday	September 21	7:00pm-9:00pm	Central Phoenix
Friday	September 25	7:00pm-8:30pm	Fountain Hills

Guest speaker at the Central Phoenix meeting on September 21st



Please join us at our main meeting on Monday, September 21st at 7:00pm for our special guest, Jane White. Jane is an Eagle Scout and former Chapter Lead of the St. Louis Area Scouts for Equality. Now that the BSA has become more inclusive, Jane, and others who share her passion for the program, are looking to start an all-inclusive Venturing Unit in the Phoenix Area. Venturing is a co-ed, BSA sponsored program for youth ages 14 to 20 that focuses on outdoor activity and high adventure. The group is planning hikes, weekend camping trips, and more. Please join us as Jane discusses the program, her vision for the unit, and what the program can offer young men and women.

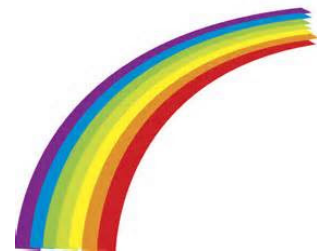
Our Central Phoenix meeting is held at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1407 N. 2nd Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Volunteers needed for Rainbows Festival A message from the PFLAG Board

Hello PFLAGers:

We would like to staff a booth at this year's **Rainbows Festival** at Heritage Square Park, but we need volunteers. The dates for the festival are Saturday, October 17 and Sunday, October 18 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. We will need volunteers for two shifts... the morning shift from 10-2 pm and the afternoon shift from 2-6 pm.

If you would like to volunteer to work a shift for one of these two days, please email us at info@pflagphoenix.org and include your name, e-mail address, phone number, the day (Sat or Sun), and the shift time you'd like to work (morning or afternoon).



If we get enough volunteers, we will have a booth at Rainbows this year.... If not, we won't do it. It costs us money to rent the booth space, table, etc., but getting people to staff it is the main thing, so we need to know in advance whether or not we have enough people signed up to cover all the shifts.

Thanks in advance,
Your PFLAG Board

Other events that may be of interest

Aug 20-23: Gender Odyssey, an international conference focused on the needs and interests of transgender and gender-nonconforming people. **Location: Seattle**
[More info here](#)



Oct 23-24: Gender Infinity, a conference focused on transgender and gender diverse youth ages 4 to 25. Cost to students and community advocates: \$50. **Location: Houston** [More info here](#)

Nov 13-14: Gender Conference East 2015, Professional Symposium, Friday, November 13. Family & Youth Day, Saturday, November 14. **Location: Timonium, MD** [More info here](#)

Oct 16-18: PFLAG National Convention. This convention's theme: We Are the Change. Through PFLAG families, friends, and allies have united their voices with those of their lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer loved ones, standing up together in support of civil rights and equality and against discrimination and hatred. The cost is now \$300 for PFLAG members. Please join us! **Location: Nashville** [More info here](#)

Message from PFLAG Phoenix: We NEED You!

If you have ever thought about helping PFLAG on another level, besides just attending support groups, PFLAG could really use you! We desperately need people to help us manage our resources for all the various PFLAG valley groups. And right now, we are stretched way too thin.

Our Board of Directors meet on the second Saturday of every other month, from 10 am to noonish (and we usually go out to lunch afterward). Our next board meeting is September 12. We welcome everyone to attend. We meet in the boardroom at 2942 N. 24th Street, Suite 114. Phoenix, 85016. It is located in an office building that can be a little confusing, so if you plan to attend, just call any of our existing board members and we'll "guide you in"....and be ELATED to have you with us!



We truly need all the help we can get. There are many projects that PFLAG is unable to do right now because we simply do not have enough people to do them. For example, our Speaker's Bureau has no manager. Right now, when companies or schools ask us to come and speak, we are forced to turn down their requests. And there are many positions just like this that are vacant right now. Elections are coming up and we need Officers for this coming year. This would be another terrific way to contribute. No role is too small, but trust us, the rewards are huge.

Thank you.

This and That The good news keeps rolling in

- Attorney General Loretta Lynch confirmed: No matter what state they call home, same-sex couples can now enjoy the full faith, protection, and benefits of the U.S. government. [Full article here.](#)

- This week the Princeton Review released its annual rankings on Colleges and Universities. The most LGBT-friendly school was Emerson College, a small liberal arts institution in Boston that's no stranger to the No. 1 spot. Emerson earned the title in 2012 and 2013, as well. For more LGBT-friendly schools, [check it out here](#).



- The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has ruled that existing civil rights law bars sexual orientation-based employment discrimination - a groundbreaking decision to advance legal protections for gay, lesbian, and bisexual workers. [Full article here](#).
- Open Trans Military Service -- The Final Barrier to Full Inclusion Falls. [Full article here](#).
- The Boy Scouts of America announced Monday that it's lifting the ban on gay adults as Scout leaders. [Full article here](#).