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## PFLAG Phoenix Newsletter

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**August 2018**

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### Greetings,

2015 turned out to be a historic & consequential year. The Supreme Court legalized marriage equality, the Pentagon added "sexual orientation" as a protected class under its Military Equal Opportunity Policy, in Florida Gov. Rick Scott signed a bill allowing same-sex couples to adopt children, following a 2010 court ruling that overturned the law preventing couples from this right, in New Jersey, a jury ruled that "gay conversion therapy," designed to turn LGBT people straight violates the state's consumer fraud act, and on and on.

2018 is turning out to be the year in which we must fight with all of our might to protect all these victories we won in 2015. It will also be the year to keep our chins up & soldier on and build on those victories while changing hearts & minds.

The good news for 2018 is that we have had 3 years of marriage equality as the law of the land and millions of people, who truly feared gay marriage would hurt them personally, have had the opportunity to see that their marriages were not harmed and the sky did not fall when the gay couple down the street got married. But even more importantly, there has been a slow realization for many people that the LGBTQ community is not much different

from them. They share the same wants & needs, the same goals, and the same desire to love whomever they love without persecution and shame. Changing hearts and minds is and will always be our biggest weapon.

Freedom to love whomever you love is a right and no threat to anyone. And that is our August 2018 message.



Wondering what else is going on in August? Check out our [calendar](#) on our [website](#). That is where you can find information about our support meetings and so much more.

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](mailto:info@pflagphoenix.org).

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

Sincerely,

PFLAG Phoenix  
602.843.1404

**A Blast from the Past  
Justice Kennedy's Marriage Opinion Boiled Down:  
Love is Love**

"No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice and family. In forming a marital union, two people become



something greater than once they were. As some of the petitioners in these cases demonstrate, marriage embodies a love that may endure even past death. It would misunderstand these men and women to say they disrespect the idea of marriage. Their plea is that they do respect it, respect it so deeply that they seek to find its fulfillment for themselves. Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilization's oldest institutions. They ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them that right. The judgment of the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit is reversed. It is so ordered."

## August support meetings



Friday	August 3	7:00pm-8:30pm	Tempe
	<a href="#">Check their website</a>		Native American
Wednesday	August 8	5:00pm-6:30pm**	Beatitudes Campus
Thursday	August 9	7:00pm-8:30pm	Scottsdale/PV
Monday	August 20	7:00pm-9:00pm	Central Phoenix
Friday	August 21	7:00pm-8:30pm	Mesa

**\*\* Please note the new time.**

More information about our support meetings can be found [here](#).

## Mark your October calendars for the Rainbows Festival



The annual 2018 Rainbows Festival and Street Fair is a celebration of the diversity of the LGBTQ community. Each year, the Rainbows Festival draws a crowd of over 25,000. Rainbows Festival is the 2nd largest LGBTQ event in the state of Arizona, only 2nd to the Phoenix Pride Festival.

It is a free event and will be held Saturday & Sunday October 20-21, 2018 at Heritage Square Park, from 10:00am - 6:00pm. More info can be found [here](#).

**PFLAG Phoenix honors Donna & Al Ellis with an award for their years of love, support, & activism**



If you have ever been to a support meeting, or marched in the Pride Parade, or carried signs at the Capital during a demonstration, or attended the Rainbows Festival, or volunteered at the Gay Rodeo or some other PFLAG function, chances are you have seen this amazing couple right smack dab in the middle of all the action. And you do NOT forget them. They have truly left their mark not just on PFLAG Phoenix, but on all the people whom they have encountered throughout their years at PFLAG Phoenix. They have given so much of themselves to so many people. They have changed lives. They have saved lives.

Needless to say, no amount of awards or words can adequately express our gratitude to this dynamic duo. Thank you Donna & Al! Know you are loved, appreciated, and at the top of so many people's Heroes List.

## PFLAG Phoenix membership drive is around the corner



Just a heads up: our membership drive will be in full swing soon. PFLAG membership renewals are due in September and renewal letters will go out in August, so be on the lookout for them. And no worries for those who joined or renewed in June, July or August, your memberships are automatically covered for the 2018-2019 year.

PFLAG Phoenix is an ALL-volunteer organization. So this is really important because your membership helps us to fulfill our mission of support, education, and advocacy for, and on behalf of LGBTQ+ individuals, their families, and friends (and straight allies too).

You can check out the various ways you can join or renew on our website [here](#). Thank you so much. We truly could not do all that we do without your help!

For more information about memberships and the different ways to purchase or renew, please visit our [website](#).

## Let's talk about Arizona Tax Credits



For those of us that wish to see all, or a portion, of our Arizona State Income Taxes go to certified charitable organizations, and/or schools, we can do so! All you need to do is go to the internet and enter [AZDOR Certified Charities](#), and search through the 12 or so pages to choose from. Or, enter [AZDOR Public School Credits](#), then select AZ Department of Education List of Schools, then your city and/or zip code to find the eligible schools. (There are also other Charter and Private tuition schools that qualify.)

As an individual tax filer you may qualify to give directly to the organization(s) a minimum of \$200 to each category; or \$400 if filing jointly. Your check(s) may be delivered through the end of the 2018 tax filing season. When filing your Arizona Income Taxes, and say your total tax due is \$801, and you gave \$800 directly, you subtract the \$800 from the tax due and pay \$1. Each of the agencies and schools you supported are required to report these amounts to the State, and may be

considered when the State allocates funds, but you have the pleasure of knowing your funds went directly to the agencies and schools YOU selected.

PFLAG Phoenix, 2942 N. 24th St., Suite 114-310, Phoenix, AZ 85016

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