

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



PFLAG Phoenix Newsletter

Events and information

September 2018

In This Issue

Rescheduled BOD meeting
September support meetings
It's Membership Time!
Honoring David Ragan
Desperado Film Festival
Rainbows Festival is coming!
TSAZ
Guest post
Birthday wishes

Quick Links

Meeting times and locations
Become a member
About our chapter
Our Sponsors
Our Calendar of Events

Greetings!

For many of us, September is that month in which we have our first opportunity to enjoy a collective sigh of relief and a quick glimpse at that light at the end of the tunnel. We can finally say goodbye to August monsoons, humidity, flash floods & high heat and look forward to a somewhat cooler and calmer September -- or at least we hope.

So let's check out what's happening at PFLAG Phoenix in the coming months. Our membership drive is beginning with earnest, the Desperado Film festival will be coming the end of September, and the Rainbows Festival & Street Fair will take place mid-October.

Wondering what else is going on at PFLAG Phoenix? Check out our [events calendar](#). It's a great way to stay current with what is going on in our community.

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 or check out the [volunteer page](#) on our website.

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

Sincerely,

PFLAG Phoenix
602.843.1404

September PFLAG Phoenix BOD meeting rescheduled

Please note: The September 1st PFLAG Phoenix Board of Directors meeting has been rescheduled, the new date is Saturday, September 8th. It will be held at our usual time, 10:00am to 12:00pm, at our usual venue (see link below for everything you'd want to know about our BOD meetings).



New attendees are ALWAYS welcome and appreciated at our bi-monthly meetings! So if you think you might be interested, we strongly encourage you to attend and check us out! This is a great way to get more involved with a local LGBT+-supportive community organization. So join us at our next PFLAG Board of Directors meeting. You will be welcomed with open arms.

You can find all the information you need to know about our PFLAG Phoenix Board of Directors meetings [here on our website](#).

September support meetings

Friday	September 7	7:00pm-8:30pm	Tempe
	Check their website	Check website	Native American
Wednesday	September 12	**5:00pm-6:30pm	Beatitudes Campus
Thursday	September 13	7:00pm-8:30pm	Scottsdale/Paradise Valley
Monday	September 17	7:00pm-8:30pm	Central Phoenix
Tuesday	September 18	7:00pm-8:30pm	Mesa

For more information about specific meetings, please check our [PFLAG Phoenix website](#).

****Please note** the new meeting time for our Beatitudes Campus meeting.

It's Membership time!

Please join PFLAG Phoenix as an official member, or renew your existing membership for 2018-2019



Since the first of the year the LGBTQ Community has been watching the amazing gains we've made in the last seven years slipping away. Life was truly getting better for so many individuals and there was hope that true equality in every aspect of their lives was within reach. Sadly things have changed and fear, shame, and uncertainty are pushing some of those people back into the closet and into a life with so many unknowns. We must not let that happen!

Your membership helps us fulfill our mission of *support, education, and advocacy* for, and on behalf of LGBTQ individuals, their families, and friends (and straight allies too). There is nothing more rewarding than helping LGBTQ people and the family/friends who surround them to accept & celebrate themselves just as they are. Everything we do is with dedicated volunteers, many of whom have been on this journey at some point in their life. Either they are LGBTQ or they are the parent, family, friend of someone who is. But we cannot do it all with just volunteers, which is why we need your financial support as well.

Please renew or join now to help us support our loved ones, educate families, and friends, and advocate to advance & PROTECT strides gained in the past.

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 2018/19 membership).

We hope that you will renew your membership and continue supporting the Phoenix chapter. You can read our membership letter [here](#).

You **are not required** to be a member to take advantage of our services, but we encourage and appreciate it.

[Click here](#) to discover the different options we have for memberships. You can join/renew [here](#) (if you are using a credit or debit card), or if you are more comfortable with joining/renewing by mail, [download the form here](#), or you can also do it in person at any of our [support meetings](#).

Regardless of how you choose to join or renew, from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you!

Honoring Reverend David Ragan and the Beatitudes Campus

PFLAG Phoenix has presented an award to Reverend David Ragan (left) and the Beatitudes Campus for all of the support they have given us over the years.

Not only have they hosted a support group for a number of years, but they have also hosted multiple events at their campus that have brought the LGBTQ+ and community together.



We so appreciate having Dave on our Board of Directors and all of the support he and this community has so generously given to us.

Thank you David. We could not do what we do without our selfless volunteers.

Desperado Film Festival is coming - Mark your calendars



The Desperado LGBT Film Festival is coming so mark your calendars! It is located at the Center for the Performing Arts at Paradise Valley Community College and showcases the best in LGBT film. It has a long tradition of fostering diversity and multiculturalism throughout the state of Arizona.

The dates for this festival have been moved up due to student events & productions. It will be held September 28th through the 30th. Please check out their [website](#) for the movie line-ups, times, and other details.

Save the date! The Rainbows Festival is coming in October.



Phoenix Pride is the proud producer of the "Arizona's Greatest Street Fair", the Rainbows Festival. The annual Rainbows Festival & Street Fair is a celebration of the diversity of the LGBTQ community. The event is located in historic Heritage Square Park in Downtown Phoenix on **Saturday, October 20th** from 10am to 6pm and **Sunday, October 21st** from 10am to 6pm. Admission is free.

Each year, the Rainbows Festival draws a crowd of over 25,000 friends, families, and allies. Rainbows Festival is the 2nd largest LGBTQ event in the state of Arizona, only 2nd to the Phoenix Pride Festival.

The annual Rainbows Festival is open to the public. We host nearly 150 exhibitors and sponsors throughout the two-day event and have 2 stages filled with entertainment throughout the weekend. More information can be found [here on their website](#).

PFLAG Phoenix will be hosting a table at this 2 day event and we will be soliciting volunteers to staff that table for either a 2 hour or 3 hour shift. If you'd like to sign up for one of those shifts, you can do so at one of our [support meetings](#) or if you cannot make a meeting, you can contact us by email: info@pflagphoenix.org. Please state clearly that you want to volunteer for a shift manning the PFLAG Phoenix table at the Rainbows Festival on either Saturday, Oct 20th or Sunday, October 21st.

It will definitely be a good time!

Did you know we have a sister organization?



Yes, we have a "sister organization" here in the valley and it is doing so much good for so many people. Trans Spectrum has been an organization for several years and has helped many trans females, trans males and their support people deal with all the aspects of transitioning. When a person realizes that they are trans, it doesn't just affect them, but everyone around them, and it is a learning process for everyone involved. It does not happen overnight, but takes much patience on the part of all concerned.

Trans Spectrum provides a confidential, safe space for trans, gender non-conforming, their loved ones, and all allies. The first part of the meeting is spent with everyone all together, giving information about upcoming events, information about where each of the

support groups will meet in the church, welcoming people to the group, making various announcements, and then the large group divides into the smaller support groups, so that the "SOFFA's" (which stands for Significant Others, Friends, Family, and Allies) can meet in one private classroom, and a separate classroom for the SPOUSES of the trans men and women (because their issues and needs and wants are completely different than the needs of the parents and allies). The trans men meet in one private classroom, trans women in another, and the gender non-conforming in another, and we all meet for the first hour, sharing our issues, sad, happy and informative.

We have a short break at the end of the hour, and then during the second hour, the parents, spouses, and allies are free to join whichever of the groups they would prefer to join....the trans males, females or gender non-conforming.

We would like to invite more PFLAG people to come support Trans Spectrum. We believe that you will find it a wonderful learning experience. So many leave this meeting touched right on down to their hearts and souls.

TSAZ meets at First Congregational UCC, 1407 N. 2nd St. Phoenix, AZ, on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 11 am and on Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm. Check out their [wonderful website](#) for more details.

Guest post

by PFLAG Phoenix Treasurer, Ron Elkins

It was April or May of 2015 and PFLAG Phoenix desperately needed a webmaster. Kim



Sullivan stepped up out of the blue and offered to take over the job. She made no promises about her skills, but she gave us assurances she could learn along the way. We hardly knew her, but we *had to* take this chance. And look at what this wizardess has done for PFLAG Phoenix! She has truly made PFLAG Phoenix rise out of the ashes! And along the way she resurrected our newsletter, which had also been dormant for a few years, and she handles the PFLAG Phoenix Facebook

ads.

What would we have done without her, and what would we DO without her? Thank you sooo much for all you have done and continue to do, Kim.... We just don't say it often enough, but we so appreciate you.

Kim and her husband, Mike, have two sons and a daughter, all grown. Mike and Kim visit them as often as they can. Their trip to France last year was Mike's dream and we lived a bit of it with them too.

Kim was a member of our North Scottsdale support group originally and then she became the facilitator of our Fountain Hills Support group until its demise due to diminished support from the area, but she and others tried for many months to keep it going.

Kim, we love you and thank you.

And finally ...

We here at PFLAG Phoenix would be remiss if we did not recognize a certain special someone's birthday this month. And that person is Donna Ellis, another volunteer that is so vital to the day-to-day operations of PFLAG Phoenix that she and her husband, Al, have

become the face of PFLAG Phoenix. They have given so much of their hearts and souls to PFLAG Phoenix that we would be lost without them.

So when you see Donna at a support meeting or at any other PFLAG function, take a minute to wish this amazing lady a very happy birthday.

Happy Birthday Donna! We love you.



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

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#).

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by editor@pflagphoenix.org in collaboration with



Try it free today