Having trouble viewing this email? Click here

PFLAG Phoenix: Improving life, one day at a time

December 2018

In This Issue
A message from PFLAG
Support meeting dates & times
Membership reminder
Scholarship opportunity
Our 2019 BOD officers

Quick Links
Meeting times and locations
Become a member
About our chapter
Our Sponsors
Our Calendar of Events
Our Resources Page

Holiday Greetings!

The holiday season is a wonderful happy time for most people, but we must not forget that for a lot of people, it can be a time of high anxiety, especially when things are rocky with their family. If you are one of those people, 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 having a big Christmas dinner and have room for one more at your table? Consider inviting someone, who may not have anywhere else to go, over to share in the holiday spirit.

Wondering what else is going on in December? Check out the calendar on our website. We list all our support meetings and other events that may be of interest to you.

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 our Volunteer page on the website where you can find all kinds of great opportunities to help out.

Don’t forget to "like" our Facebook page if you haven’t yet!
And from PFLAG Phoenix, we wish everyone Happy Holidays.

Sincerely,
PFLAG Phoenix
602.843.1404

A Message from PFLAG

This time of year presents challenges for many of our PFLAG Phoenix friends & family. And the ongoing barrage of attacks from this administration against members of the LGBTQ community (anti-trans military ban and removal of protections for federal trans employees to name just a few) only adds more stress, sadness, and fear to those challenges. We know it can feel
overwhelming. We see it and feel it in our support meetings. And though we cannot assure people that their fears are unfounded, we can assure them that they are loved, valued, and not alone. Please know PFLAG will always be there for you.

But things are NOT hopeless. There is a light at the end of the tunnel and we have reason to believe things will get better for ourselves, our friends, and our loved ones. Midterm elections are over and we know that we are not alone, we have seen the power of resistance, the numbers of truly good people who are as horrified as we are, and the activism of so many who were once complacent. We are starting to see some hope. Pundits continue to talk about an electorate divided, and with a sad realization we see that a good number of our neighbors (and even some of our family members) do not embrace the same vision of America as we do. But we are seeing those numbers shrink too. Changing hearts and minds is a slow and painstaking process and we will not give up.

PFLAGers know how to experience losses, celebrate wins with grace, and never lose sight of our vision of a world where all people are valued, respected, supported, and loved. But make no mistake: PFLAGers also know how to fight for ourselves, for our families, and for a bright future for LGBTQ youth.

We've got 6 local meetings here in the Phoenix area, more than 400 chapters and 200,000 members and supporters across the country ready to get this done. That's thousands of people committed to sending this holiday message: You are loved and you are valued. And with your help PFLAG will always fight for you & always be here for you.

P.S. If you are struggling and need help, don't wait, and don't suffer alone: Asking for help is a sign of strength. If you or a loved one is in danger or have thought about self harm, please call The Trevor Project at 1-866-488-7386. Other hotlines and crisis centers can be found here on our website.

### December support meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>December 7</td>
<td>7:00pm-8:30pm</td>
<td>Tempe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Check their website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>December 12</td>
<td>5:00pm-6:30pm*</td>
<td>Beatitudes Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>December 18</td>
<td>7:00pm-8:30pm</td>
<td>Mesa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>December 13</td>
<td>7:00pm-8:30pm</td>
<td>Scottsdale/PV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>December 17</td>
<td>7:00pm-9:00pm</td>
<td>Central Phoenix</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General information on all of our support meetings can be found here.

* Please note new time.
Membership Reminder

Just a quick note to remind everyone that NOW MORE THAN EVER is the time to join or renew your membership. We must defend all of the progress we have made and fight harder than ever to continue gaining ground in the fight towards full equality, respect, and dignity. And that takes volunteers and money. So please consider becoming a member (though it is NOT necessary to be a member to attend meetings, work as a volunteer, or join in on PFLAG Phoenix activities).

Joining is easy. Just go to our website where you will find 4 simple ways to donate or join, easy-to-follow instructions, and lots & lots of choices when it comes to picking a membership or a sponsorship to fit your budget. And of course, a big heartfelt thank you to everyone who has already joined or renewed. We could not do it without you!

Calling all LGBTQ+ students

Point Foundation is now accepting applications to become a Point Scholar! Apply for a Point Foundation scholarship today! Deadline is Jan 28th, 2019. Check out their website for more information.

Our 2019 PFLAG Phoenix BOD Officers

It is with gratitude and pride that we announce our 2019 Board of Director officers. There were no additional nominations from the floor for any of the offices, so our 2019 officers were elected by
acclimation. A huge THANK YOU goes out to Geoffrey Dorsey, Andrew Barreras, Lewis Penrose, and Ron Elkins for their willingness to be nominated for another term as respectively, President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. For those who are not familiar with our President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, we offer a brief bio on each officer below:

**PRESIDENT - Geoffrey Dorsey**

Geoffrey has been attending PFLAG meetings since 2009 when he moved to Phoenix from Nashville. He enjoys reading, doing research, cooking, and traveling. He is also a life-time student with 3 bachelor degrees and 1 associate degree. He looks forward to serving as President of the PFLAG Phoenix Chapter over this next year.

**Vice President - Andrew Barreras**

Andrew has been with PFLAG Phoenix for 5 years and serves on the Board of Directors. He was born and raised in a small copper mining town of Superior, Arizona. Attended Central Arizona College (School of Nursing) also attended Eastern Arizona College (IEMT - Intermediate Emergency Medical Technician) Andrew worked as Police Dispatcher for the City of Superior Police. He was the first male Police Dispatcher. Andrew also worked as a Volunteer Fire Fighter/ IEMT with the Superior Fire Department before moving to Tempe in 1986. He retired from Maricopa Medical Center as a Nurse Specialist from the Maricopa Burn Center. He also worked Pediatric Emergency Dept. and in the Operating Room and was part of the Trauma Team. Andrew was Ordained into the Priesthood in the Reformed Catholic Church 5 years ago and is a member CORA (Council of Religious Advisors) at ASU where he really enjoys working with the LGBTQ Students. He enjoys his position as a Priest with the very inclusive, all welcoming Reformed Catholic Church. He has worked very hard for Marriage Equality and for total equality and rights for the LGBTQ Community... You'll see him every 1st Saturday at Charlie's .. Working along with the Men of Charlie's Man of the Month contest.

**Secretary - G. Lewis Penrose**

Lewis attended PFLAG in 1991 for the first time after having come out as a gay man at 39 years old. He attended PFLAG in Tempe for a few years and received great support. In 2009 he saw the movie PRAYERS FOR BOBBY and was so moved he decided he needed give back to others what he received from PFLAG in the early 90's. In 2014 he joined the Board of Directors and held the office of Secretary in 2014 - 2015. In 2016 he took over monitoring the PFLAG Info/Help-line located on the website. He looks forward to serving as Secretary for a third year in 2017.

**Treasurer - Ron Elkins**

PFLAG is very special to me. I have been a member for over 7 years and enjoy the support, friendship and most importantly helping others through their journey. I would like to give back to PFLAG and help where I can. I am a long-time Arizona resident and have my own store "Consign at Chez" in Central Phoenix. I look forward to helping the organization in the Treasurer role. Having my own business for over 7 years, I understand that the finances keep an organization strong and prosperous. Through accurate bookkeeping and accounting of funds, the organization can continue to be successful in growth and help more people. With my business experience and the drive to help the organization, it would be an honor to contribute to the organization in the role of Phoenix PFLAG Treasurer.