



PFLAG
phoenix

Parents, Families and Friends ~~of~~ ^{And} Lesbians and Gays
(and Bi*sexual, Transgender, and "Questioning" People)

PFLAG Phoenix Newsletter

Events and information

July 2019

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Greetings!

Wondering what is going on in July? Check out our [PFLAG Phoenix website](#). You can get information about our [support meetings](#), or find events that might interest you on our [calendar](#), or visit our membership page to renew or [become a member](#) if you are not one now.

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



July support meetings

Friday	July 5	7:00pm-8:30pm	Tempe
Saturday		Check their website	Native American
Thursday	July 11	7:00pm-8:30pm	Scottsdale/PV
Tuesday	July 16	7:00pm-8:30pm	Phoenix

Tuesday

July 16

7:00pm-8:30pm

Mesa

Please check [our website](#) for general information on all of our support meetings.

PFLAG Phoenix Awards Another Amazing Recipient, Manuel Rodriguez!



One of PFLAG Phoenix's most gratifying jobs is recognizing outstanding graduating high school seniors and college students by awarding them scholarships.

Manuel Rodriguez graduated from Central High School this past May with academic excellence. He will attend Arizona State University-Barrett's Honors College and plans to major in Economics and Politics and wishes to be a Politician (A GOOD ONE!).

Some of Manuel's volunteer community service includes: Helping "Feed My Starving Children", "Pee Wee Pals" - pet cages and pet walking, Agave Farms- planting and helping with community garden, Kiwanis- Chaperone for challenged kids for "Kid's Day at the Fair", Central H.S.- Organizer for H.S. Voter Registration, Phx Childrens Museum - assisting children visitors, Hatcher Urban Businesses- Volunteer for urban cleanup, Borderlands Produce Rescue -Facilitator, March For Our Lives - Volunteer.

Finding time for all of these volunteer activities while maintaining a stellar grade point average is amazing. We know whatever Manuel chooses to do in life will make a big impact on us all.

Congratulations Manuel. We are so proud of you!

A huge thank you to AGRA & Men of Charlie's



(This picture was taken last year, we missed the opportunity this year to capture these two amazing organizations' huge generosity)

PFLAG Phoenix is so fortunate to have so many wonderful and supportive [sponsors](#). No amount of words or gifts of appreciation can accurately express our gratitude for all the support we have received from these two sponsors over the years.

Today though, we want to single out two of our biggest and most loyal supporters, [AGRA](#), the Arizona Gay Rodeo Association, an organization that supports a wide range of charities, and [Men of Charlie's](#), an organization committed to raising money for non-profit organizations within their community.

This year's 2019 Rodeo Charitable Donation to PFLAG Phoenix was \$4,572.00. And this year Men of Charlie's gave PFLAG Phoenix a check in the amount of \$500.00.

Thank you AGRA & Men of Charlie's for the many, many years of amazing support! Your gifts make a huge difference in so many people's lives.

PFLAG Phoenix membership drive is around the corner



Just a heads up: PFLAG Phoenix's membership drive will be in full swing soon.

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!

Some thoughts from this grateful mom ...

As the mother of a gay son whose dream is to follow in his father's footsteps



and become an airline pilot, I marvel at how much things have changed since my husband applied for a job as an airline pilot back in the 60's. If you were a gay man back then, and applying for a an airline pilot job, you DID NOT dare reveal that detail about yourself. Now that is not to say that there were no gay pilots back then, but I imagine that those pilots who were gay most likely felt they had to closely guard their secret in order to keep their job.

Thankfully things have changed a lot since the 60's. This morning my husband went to the Delta Airlines website to look something up and right on the front page was an article (with video) titled [Pilot talks LGBTQ+ equality, Pride Month and Stonewall a half-century later](#). It was written by an Atlanta-based Delta Captain and Line Check Pilot, Lane Kranz, who "shared perspective on the Stonewall uprising, diverse representation in the flight deck and the best part about flying for Delta" as a gay man himself. What stuck out for me was this passage:



Our Son

"In 1969, the year I was born, you could not be gay or lesbian and hold a job at an airline, so it's amazing that 50 years later I'm a Captain and Line Check Pilot for the greatest airline on the planet. This would have never been possible without those brave people stepping up in 1969, followed by decades of education, hard work and patience."

After many years of hard work and building flight hours, my son is getting ready to apply to the big airlines. And thanks to all those brave people who stepped up in 1969 and those warriors who are still stepping up, he will not have to hide any detail about himself for fear of not getting the job or losing the job if someone finds out he is gay. He will be reaping all the rewards of all their long-fought battles for equality and respect. And he is not taking it for granted. The fact that he does not have to hide who he is or fastidiously guard every word that comes out of his mouth for fear of giving away his secret is a true testimony to the heroes of Stonewall and the many other warriors for equality and dignity. He will be judged by his skills, his employment records with commuter & charter airlines, and NOT by whom he chooses to love. And that is the way it should be.

We cannot get complacent. We cannot stop fighting. There is still so much to do. There are still people (and businesses) out there who would love nothing more than to see all those rights we have fought so hard for taken away. But there are simple things that we can do to make a huge impact. We are consumers and we hold a lot of power. We can flex our consumer muscle and reward businesses like Delta with our business & loyalty. This is something my husband and I have done for years, our money only goes to those businesses that reflect our values. Imagine what would happen if we all did this.

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