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PFLAG
phoenix

Parents, Families and Friends ^{And} of Lesbians and Gays
(and Bisexual, Transgender, and "Questioning" People)

PFLAG Phoenix Newsletter

Events and information

February 2020

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Greetings!

February is traditionally all about LOVE and now, more than ever, we need to make sure that our most vulnerable know that they are loved & valued.

PFLAG Phoenix is here to support, educate, and advocate for and on behalf of our LGBTQ friends & family. We love to see unconditional love and acceptance emerge from confusion and fear. Unfortunately, our job is much harder now. We are seeing an increase in people who are experiencing a wide range of emotions from anger, hurt, sadness, and fear. But we will continue to be that safe place for those who are in need and we will continue to fight for a world in which all people are valued, respected, supported, and loved.

We love our volunteers to pieces! They are the ones who make PFLAG Phoenix's work possible. If you'd like to know more about ways you can help our chapter, check out our many volunteer opportunities on our [Volunteer Page](#), or email us at info@pflagphoenix.org.

And if you have not checked out our [website](#), now is the time to do it!

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

Sincerely,
And with lots of LOVE,

PFLAG Phoenix
602.843.1404



Meet PFLAG Phoenix's New Board President & Vice President

It is with great pride and excitement that we present our new Board of Directors' President and Vice President. We are so grateful to both of them for stepping forward and volunteering their time & energy, all the while juggling jobs family and jobs.



Crystal Asetta - President: I attended my first PFLAG Phoenix meeting in 2013 when our daughter came out. I found support, answers, and a second family.

I have been facilitating the Tempe meetings for the last five years and have attended many wonderful PFLAG events.

As PFLAG Phoenix's new President, I hope to grow our PFLAG Phoenix family and provide services to our community as an ally and a Mama Bear!



Debra Wilson - Vice President: I am a 64-year-old mother of 4 and grandmother of 10. A previous AT&T project manager, I am now employed full time at Sossaman Early Childhood Development Center. My 20-year-old grandson, of whom I have had custody since infancy, is a transgender gay man. I have been involved with PFLAG and AZTYPO since he first came out believing himself to be a lesbian at 14. Four years ago, I finished my bachelor's degree online in Psychology in Child Development, focusing on the issues and challenges of LGBTQ+ youth in Arizona. My plan to pursue a master's degree in that field was set aside when my boy went into crisis after being disowned by his mother. I quickly learned how to advocate for the LGBTQ+ community in his defense, and on behalf of everyone in the community needing unconditional support.

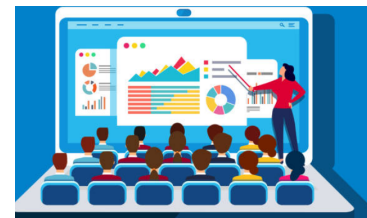
I have volunteered at many PFLAG events, and I am a regular attendee of the Tempe monthly support meeting. I am running for office of PFLAG vice-president in order to become much more involved with PFLAG and the LGBTQ+ community at large. I want to

bring a revitalizing outlook and fresh ideas to our group to help it grow and thrive, so that we may support the growing community in need of our services.

More information about our PFLAG Phoenix Board of Directors [here](#).

A Message From Crystal Asetta, PFLAG Phoenix's New President

I want to thank everyone for sending me to the PFLAG National Convention in Kansas City. It was an amazing opportunity to represent our Phoenix chapter and of course, eat some barbecue! Each day we came together for some inspirational key note speakers and then broke into workshop sessions for various topics. Most importantly, I got to interact with other chapters and hear about shared challenges and some great ideas.



The first keynote event was a roundtable discussing "Building Inclusion at the Intersection of Racial/Ethnic and LGBTQ+ Identities" The panel of activists and leaders from across the country¹ represented people of color, immigrants and three generations. This was a very spirited discussion that challenged everyone to really reflect on their personal and chapter perspectives about inclusion. Are we actively encouraging diversity? Not only reaching out but showing up for each other. Please reach out to the Phoenix-PFLAG leadership with your thoughts and any opportunities for us to do better.

The second keynote event was "Supporting Youth Through Community Partnerships" with leaders² from Big Brothers Big Sisters, Planned Parenthood and the YMCA. I was amazed at the depth of resources each organization provides for the LGBTQ+ community. Planned Parenthood in particular provides caring, quality healthcare for everyone, including hormones and support groups. Each partner has a depth of training and educational materials that we can all share.

Finally, I participated in our Regional Meeting: Mountain West (AZ, CO, NM, UT, WY), with our regional leader Blanca Leos. We all shared our struggles with dwindling meeting attendance and the public image of 'PFLAG is for the older generations - like FaceBook'. While we all agreed we want to see more youth involvement, we also felt strongly as a group about the pride we have in our committed, dedicated members. Generations of people who have come before us to make our PFLAG community strong. The Moms, Dads, Grandparents and family members who created our support groups and who show up with love and strength whenever and wherever we are needed.

So again, I want to say a heartfelt 'Thank You' for the honor of representing PFLAG - Phoenix at the National Convention. I am so proud of what we do and encouraged about our future.

1 Roundtable speakers: Karine Jean-Pierre, Mateo De La Torre, Rep. Malcom Kenyatta, Khudai Tanveer.

2 Community presenters: Hillary Bardwell, Julia Bennett, Jamie Umanzor

February Support Meetings



Friday	February 7	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Tempe
Thursday	February 13	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Scottsdale/PV
Tuesday	February 18	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Phoenix
Tuesday	February 18	7:00pm - 8:30pm	Mesa** (Temporarily closed-see below)
Native American	Check their website		Native American

General information on all of our support meetings can be found [here](#).

****Please Note:** The Mesa meeting is temporarily closed due to lack of volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a facilitator, please contact us by [email](#).

PFLAG Phoenix has some changes to share with you



The PFLAG Phoenix Board of Directors has made the decision to take a different approach this year with the funds that we normally allow for our scholarship program. The BOD felt that one of the options in which they could use the funds to enrich & bring joy to more LGBTQ children is by giving them an opportunity to go to a youth camp specifically for LGBTQ and TRANS children. This change has been implemented by other PFLAGs in other states to great success.

We will keep you informed as we proceed, but for 2020, we will NOT be offering scholarships.

PFLAG Phoenix also has some good & not so good news

Let's start with the good news. We will soon have a new Support Meeting in Litchfield. Please keep an eye on PFLAG Phoenix's [Support Meeting website page](#) for developing news.

But on another note, we have some not so good news. Our [Mesa Support meeting](#) is not doing so well so we have temporarily closed this meeting due to lack of volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a facilitator, please [contact us](#).

Good +
BAD News

2020 Arizona Gay Rodeo - The rodeo is coming to town and they need volunteers

The annual [Arizona Gay Rodeo](#) is coming to Corona Ranch & Rodeo Grounds at 29th Avenue and Baseline Road in Laveen. It will be Saturday, February 15 and Sunday February 16, 2020. To buy tickets, click [here](#).



If you want to volunteer, the person to contact is Michael Welmann @ 602 885-9565.

A little more about this fun event:

Rodeo Events: Saturday and Sunday - 10:00am - six(ish)pm
Awards Ceremony - Sunday - 8:00pm

Venue is: Corona Ranch - 7611 S. 29th Ave. (SE corner of Baseline and 29th Ave.)
Laveen, Arizona

Admission is \$15 each day. There is a \$5.00 parking fee per vehicle each day beginning at 4:00 pm Friday and 8:00 am Saturday and Sunday. This fee is charged by the venue, and is totally out of AGRA's control.

Save this date: Melrose Street Fair is coming on March 7th!



This is a free public event and PFLAG Phoenix will have a table there. There will be lots of vendors, food trucks, craft beer, Mexican moonshine margaritas, live music, a kid zone, and a Classic car show too!

More information can be found [here](#). Please go [here](#) to share the event on your Facebook page and let us know you are coming.

Mark Your Calendars For March 26th



PFLAG Phoenix is excited to announce the screening of the "[TWO SPIRITS](#)" documentary. TWO SPIRITS interweaves the tragic story of a mother's loss of her son with a revealing look at a time when the world wasn't simply divided into male and female, and many Native American cultures held places of honor for people of integrated genders.

- Where:
 - Beatitudes Campus, In their Life Center (Ask the front desk for directions)
 - 1610 W. Glendale Avenue
 - Phoenix, AZ 85021
 - Park out front
- When: Thursday, March 26th, @ 7:00pm
- Cost: FREE

Pride is coming! Mark your calendar.



More info can be found [here](#).

We still have plenty of PopSockets available!



What the heck is a PopSocket - you ask. Well, a PopSocket is a cute little collapsible grip & stand accessory that attaches tightly to the back of your cell phone or tablet, making it easier to hold, take "selfies", and may even save you from dropping and breaking your mobile device. Just expand to use and collapse to lay flat. It also works as a convenient stand. You can take better photos, watch videos on the fly, and text securely with one hand. It's a grip and it's a stand. What's not to like?

Where can you buy them? PFLAG Phoenix will be making them available for sale at the [Phoenix Support meeting](#) for \$5.00 and at events (like the upcoming Melrose Street Fair on March 7th) in which we have a table - for as long as supplies last. This is yet another great reason to come to events in which we have a table or our fabulous Phoenix support meeting. And if neither of those will work for you, please [email us](#) to find out how you can buy one for yourself.