

43 years ago, as a married mother of 2, I became aware that I am a lesbian.

My husband, supportive as always, attended a PFLAG support meeting with me, and it is then that I really begin my journey to find myself. It was a difficult one. I was a teacher and administrator in a profession that was very homophobic, so at the time I was “out” only to family, including my children who supported me all the way. All the family, both mine and my husband’s, did.

Through PFLAG and other community resources I met some wonderful women who supported me and encouraged me, women like Lynn Friedman, still a dear friend and supporter. Some of us even started a Gay Mothers’ Group. Then I fell in love with a woman who was an administrator in NOPS where I taught. She was extremely closeted, even to her family, and I became closeted, except to my family, for her, for protection in our careers, or so I believed. We were together 30 years, until she died 4 months ago. Now I am free to be myself fully.

Recently, my daughter, a lesbian, married the love of her life, and at the ceremony, surrounded by all the happy young lesbian couples, I felt so at home. I am so proud of her. She is strong, out, and vocal in the community.

Retired, I bring all my life experiences and skills to the table. I have a passion for young people and young adults. I taught high school and college for 43 years. I am a grant writer, avid reader, tutor, and writer of stories and non-fiction. As a public speaker, I have spoken all over the country and even in England. I am also immensely grateful to PFLAG and am passionate about bringing myself and all my skills to the community.

Deeply committed to being advocate for our community, especially the young and for men and women like me who went through a struggle to become truly themselves; I would be honored to be a Board Member.