

October, 2018 - Let's Get the Vote Out!



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we welcome Fall to our neighborhoods here in the New Orleans region, we are also ushering in a New Membership Campaign. Our Membership Chairperson, Shane Steinkamp, has created a brilliant new brochure and an easy reference business size card that you can pass out to all of your friends. It has all the programs and services on it plus our hotline number. Please look at these items when you have a chance. Now is the time to join! So, go online and come be a part of something that is changing lives here in New Orleans.

On a sad note, PFLAG New Orleans lost one of its former Board Members, George Caldwell. He served our chapter as Vice President during the earliest days of this chapter. He, along with many others, laid the foundation that helped grow and nurture this organization into what it is today. The father of a gay daughter, George taught us all

that--no matter what--a parent's love of their children, first and foremost, is unconditional. He will be missed and the Board and I extend our most sincere sympathies to Allison and her family.

Next, PFLAG is a non-partisan organization that neither endorses nor promotes candidates or political parties. However, we do promote your right to vote, regardless of your personal views or political affiliation. So, Just Vote! It is always important and is your civic right. Your vote can and does make a difference.

Finally, our New Website is getting ready to launch; please take a minute to visit the site and give us your thoughts by sending an email to info@pflagno.org. We love your feedback because it helps us better serve You!

As a very wise woman (Ellen Degeneres, a native New Orleanian), says all the time, "Be Kind To One Another."

L.Wayne Christenberry



Scout Island Scream Park
Oct 5, 2018 - Nov 3, 2018



Loosen the Bible Belt
Nov 2, 2018



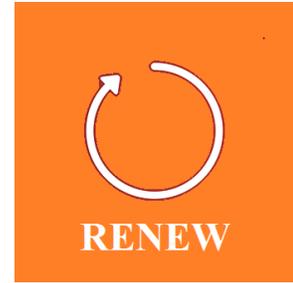
Amon-Ra's Gumbo kick off
Nov 10, 2018



NOAGE Gala: "Under the Sea!"
Nov 16, 2018



Miss Gay New Orleans USofA 2019
Nov 28, 2018



Membership Drive

Thank you for your support for the New Orleans Area chapter of PFLAG. Your support makes it possible for PFLAG New Orleans and the PFLAG National Office to stand up for equality, fairness and justice in Louisiana and in Washington, D.C. With your support, we are making a difference.

Efforts to support the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community have continued throughout the last year and we have been very active fulfilling our mission to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through:

1. Support to cope with an adverse society
2. Education to enlighten an ill-informed public
3. Advocacy to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights

The New Orleans Area PFLAG chapter continues to work toward an inclusive and just society that accepts each individual regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity & expression.

YOU ARE NEEDED!

Our chapter is proud to be a part of the PFLAG National organization. With local affiliates in more than 500 communities across the United States and abroad and over 200,000 members, PFLAG is the largest grassroots-based family organization of its kind. It is a nonprofit organization and is not affiliated with any religious or political institutions.
In communities across the U.S.

PFLAG New Orleans is funded entirely by membership dues and donations. We do not receive funds from the national organization.

Please help make a difference.

Join or renew today.

PARTNERSHIP



CrescentCare

A Partnership for Life



Southern Regional Conference

In late September, The PFLAG Regional Conference was held in Fort Worth, Texas.

As you may know, PFLAG holds regional conferences in even-numbered years and National Conferences on odd-numbered ones. The conferences are definitely worth attending, and the New Orleans chapter was represented.



After the opening remarks, the audience was treated to a rousing, inspirational, and heartwarming presentation by Mr. Ryan Smith of Texas. He recounted the emotional struggle while coming to the realization that he had to affirm his transgender child--not keep pushing back against the 6-year-old. Read details of [Ryan's story](#) here.

Thought-provoking workshops included LGBT Aging issues, working with School Districts, Effective Advocacy, and Gender Spectrum Education. The diversity of topics makes it clear that the conferences offer something for everyone; all chapters can learn a great deal at the annual events and translate that information into positive impacts in our cities.

After an enlightening panel discussion on the state of domestic legal affairs, the Fort

Worth Chapter concluded the event with a rousing Keynote speech by [Karen McCrocklin](#). While recounting her years in LGBT activism, she revealed struggles and successes that inspired all in attendance.

The next PFLAG Southern Regional Conference will take place in 2 years; as soon as the site is announced, do your best to make plans to attend. You and your family will love it.

NORTHSHORE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING MOVES TO NEW LOCATION!

The Northshore support group will now be held every 3rd Thursday at the Northshore Jewish Congregation. 1403 N. Causeway Ave., Mandeville, LA from 7 to 9 PM.

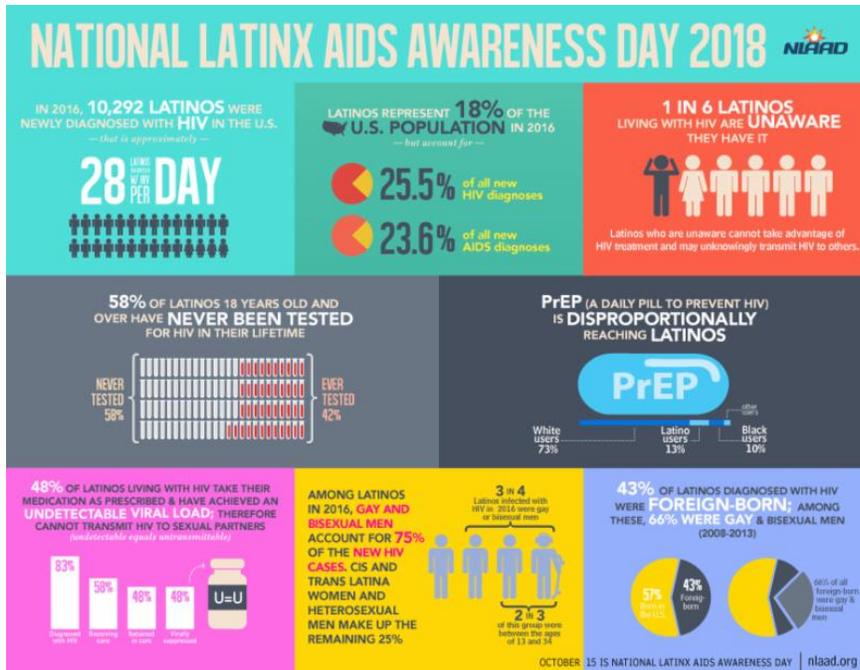


BREAKING NEWS!

Mrs. Julie Thompson and Mr. Joe Melcher have been selected to be honored at the NOAGE Gala to be held on November 16, 2018 from 7-10PM at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas. Buy your tickets now to support NOAGE and honor PFLAG's two very worthy recipients.



[Details and Tickets](#)



Hispanic Heritage Month runs from September 15 to October 15--and the National Latinx (Latino/Latina) AIDS Awareness Day was on October 15.

The Infographics released by the Latino Commission on AIDS reveals alarming facts.

1 out of every 5 new HIV diagnoses in the USA are Hispanic but only 1 in 6 Hispanics living with HIV is aware of the

infection.

Also, less than half of all adult Latinos have never been tested for HIV.

Clearly, the data reveals that there is a tremendous amount of work to be done in American cities (such as New Orleans) with large Hispanic populations. PFLAG New Orleans and other groups will be working to increase outreach efforts in the Latinx community. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please email info@pflagno.org.

[En español](#)

Why go have a mass-produced, bland, and uninspired Italian meal at a chain restaurant when you can get a classic, delicious, and delightful meal in the French Quarter?

Mona Lisa is a pleasant surprise, offering a diverse menu, with careful attention being paid to have something for everyone. Diners love their Classic Lasagna and Eggplant Parmesan.

Kids and adults love the atmosphere, which includes crayons so you, too, can create a version of the Mona Lisa--which may end up gracing the walls, where dozens of Mona Lisas reside!

The owners of Mona Lisa Restaurant have long been supporters of PFLAG New Orleans.



Mona Lisa Restaurant

1212 Royal St., New Orleans, LA
(504) 522-5746

32nd Art Against AIDS World AIDS Day 2018

Help PFLAG on World AIDS Day

Art Against AIDS takes place on World AIDS Day, December 1, at Club XLIV (at the Superdome). Art Against AIDS began in 1986 with local art students making holiday ornaments to sell and raise money. Today, 32 years later, our gala features some of the finest of what New Orleans offers: great food from local restaurants, a holiday boutique, a juried auction of art, local merchandise, vacation packages, and live entertainment.

This year, in addition to the food, drinks and entertainment, we also want to use this event to highlight how far we have come (and how far we still have to go) in the fight against HIV/ AIDS. This is an opportunity for the New Orleans Community to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to remember those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. The event will include two of the New Orleans panels of the AIDS Quilt as well as an interactive memory wall. Event Chair this year is David Lumpkin, New Orleans Artist. Guest of Honor is ABC Reporter, Karl Schmid. Karl will be speaking about the U = U campaign. Tickets, sponsor opportunities, volunteer opportunities and more can be found at crescentcare.org/aaa.

Since it is World AIDS Day, this will truly be a community event. For every ticket sold with promo code, PFLAG will receive \$15 back. All you have to do is enter promo code PFLAG18 at check out. See you at Art Against AIDS!

Get your ticket!

LGBT NEWS HIGHLIGHTS – October



We are just three weeks away from one of the most important elections of our lifetime.

Are you registered? Do you know where to vote, when to vote, and what to do when you arrive at the polls? Do you know the candidates and issues on your ballot? Do you have a plan? PFLAG National has partnered with [BallotReady](#), a digital, nonpartisan, state-by-state voter guide to fully inform you and get you ready to vote.

Visit [pflagnation.al/ballotready](#), enter your address, and make your personalized voting plan today!

There has never been a more critical election than the upcoming midterms. With hundreds of ballot measures in at least 35 states, as well as local, state, and federal offices in play, it has never been more crucial for PFLAGers to vote and Get Out the Vote. You will make a difference for your LGBTQ loved ones and their families!

Visit [pflagnation.al/ballotready](#) now to create your personalized voter action plan, and then stay tuned for other easy-to-use tools from PFLAG National to help you make the most of every day between now and November 6th.



Are you registered to vote? Are you sure? Click to Check your registration status in 30 seconds.



Are you looking for a welcoming religious congregation? [Check out this LGBTQ+ Friendly Church in Chalmette](#) Gethsemene Lutheran Church.

A Day of Reflection: One Day Event in Westwego, LA.

- please refrain from posting it on social media, radio or websites (use PFLAGNO 's Banner is ok)
 - The event is for LGBTQ+ persons AND their families and allies
 - this will be an experience which will be LGBTQ+-AFFIRMING
 - At its 3 PM conclusion, participants will be welcome to attend 4 PM mass at our Lady of Prompt Succor Church next door

Please refer questions to the [organizer](#) of the event.

[Westwego 12-1-18 Day of Reflection flyer](#)



You've no doubt read it: [the memo \(obtained by the *New York Times*\) from the Trump Administration's Department of Health and Human Services](#), where they argue that government agencies should adopt a new definition of gender which would essentially obliterate federal recognition of the estimated 1.4 million transgender and gender-expansive people living in America.

Make no mistake: **The Trump Administration is doing everything they can to erase transgender people and deny them protections**, despite clear messages from the mainstream medical, psychological, and scientific communities, court case after court case recognizing the rights of trans people, and of course the lived experiences of trans people and their families.

We shared a message yesterday from PFLAG National Board Member Stephanie Battaglini. [That message—which can be read in its entirety on Twitter](#)—represented not only PFLAG's unyielding support of transgender and gender-expansive people but also harnessed the collective rage and fear felt by so many in the community.

"You cannot eradicate me! My true self is a living, breathing, loving, human being. These things you cannot and will not take away from me, for they are embedded in my soul and in my spirit! And with PFLAG, I know I'm not alone."

Stephanie is right—she isn't alone. PFLAG was the first national organization to include transgender people in its mission, and one of the only national organizations to walk away from advocating for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, after it was suggested it be passed without the inclusion of gender identity and expression. Now we are leading on [The Equality Act](#), legislation which is more critical than ever, given what we've learned in the last 24 hours about this plan to erase our trans loved ones.

Today, our Director of Advocacy, Policy, and Partnerships Diego M. Sanchez—a transgender Latino man of color and the first openly trans senior staffer to serve on Capitol Hill—will join leaders from other national organizations to speak out on yesterday's horrifying developments, and then lead a protest rally all the way to the White House. As a representative of PFLAG who is also transgender, he knows what's at stake—and so do we.

To our transgender, gender-expansive, and non-binary loved ones, we are here to say:

We will continue to work every day so that no one defines you out of existence. We see you, we hear you, we love you, and we will continue to fight for you, because we are all in this together.



Tulane Women's Basketball's 2nd Annual Pride Day



Game info:

- Sunday, November 18th at 4:00 PM
- Tulane vs. University of Washington
- Located at Fogelman Arena in Devlin Fieldhouse
- \$3 tickets when type in the promo: "PRIDE" at www.tulanetix.com
- We will have giveaways & free parking for ALL fans in the Loyola Parking Garage located directly across the street.





Spotlight: Boy Erased

Great News: PFLAG has embarked on a partnership with the upcoming film **BOY ERASED**, which stars Lucas Hedges, Nicole Kidman, and Russell Crowe. [You can see the trailer here](#), and then look out for the future poster, which will include our logo as one of the program partners.

The film opened in New Orleans theaters on Friday, November 2.

BOY ERASED Synopsis

BOY ERASED tells the courageous story of Jared Eamons (Lucas Hedges), the son of a Baptist pastor in a small American town, who must overcome the fallout of being outed to his parents (Nicole Kidman and Russell Crowe). His parents struggle with reconciling their love for their son with their beliefs. Fearing a loss of family, friends, and community, Jared is pressured into attending a conversion therapy program. While there, Jared comes into conflict with its leader (Joel Edgerton) and begins his journey to finding his own voice and accepting his true self. Academy Award®-nominee Lucas Hedges (*Manchester by the Sea*, *Lady Bird*), Academy Award®-winner Russell Crowe (*Gladiator*, *A Beautiful Mind*), Academy Award®-winner Nicole Kidman (TV's *Big Little Lies*, *The Killing of a Sacred Deer*), Golden Globe®-nominee Joel Edgerton (*Loving*, *Zero Dark Thirty*), Emmy® and Tony Award®-winner Cherry Jones (TV's *Transparent*), Grammy Award®-winner Michael "Flea" Balzary (*Baby Driver*, TV's *The Wild Thornberrys*), Joe Alwyn (*The Sense of an Ending*), Xavier Dolan (*I Killed my Mother*), Troye Sivan (*X-Men Origins: Wolverine*), David Joseph Craig (*Permission*), Jesse LaTourette, Britton Sear and Théodore Pellerin (*First Light*) star in **BOY ERASED**, a Focus Features presentation of an Anonymous Content Production.



Where Did We Come From...Where Are We Going?

By Sally Michelle Jackson

Where did we come from (not in the deep philosophical sense but from our organizational perspective)? This isn't going to be a history lesson filled with names and dates but more of a general overview. How did PFLAG get its start? Parents of Gay and Lesbian children came together for support but it didn't stop there. They added the families and friends as well as the Gays and Lesbians themselves, whether children, parents or just people in need of support. They continued to add to their original focus by adding bisexuals and later, **with the urging of our New Orleans chapter**, became the first national LGB organization to include the Transgender community in its agenda and now in the mission statement. The work wasn't done yet; we added new definitions to include everyone on the gender spectrum. So what about the acronym PFLAG? Easy—it's just a name now, no longer an acronym but a well recognized name in the battle for LGBTQ rights and for support. That's pretty much the short version of where we came from and takes us to the question, "Where are we going?" We are not shying away from our original purpose of fighting for rights and offering support to the parents, families, friends and members of the LGBTQ Community. We are continuing to expand the coverage of many of the umbrella terms on the gender spectrum—as well as the sexuality spectrum. Just recognizing that gender and

sexuality are different and that neither is a black and white, either/or situation (viewing each as a spectrum) has made a huge difference in how we approach support and activism. We recognize that people who identify as non-binary, a-gender, or gender-fluid are in need of *different support and legislation* than people who identify as either male or female. Needs are different in much the same way that people who identify as pan sexual or a-sexual have different issues from the LGB part of the spectrum. We will continue to not only support the people who fit within our current definitions but also will continue to expand our definitions as needed.

There is no need to change direction when you are already going the right way.

Sally Michelle Jackson is retired from numerous careers but not from volunteering. She is the co-host of PFLAG New Orleans' radio program on WHIV LP, the President of the board at Community Church Unitarian Unilateralist, an active member of PFLAG and LTA as well as being a poet and author. Listen to show Thursdays 8 to 9 AM Thursdays on 102.3 FM.



PFLAG New Orleans is looking for your feedback, articles, and story ideas. Please send your comments to info@pflagno.org



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