



WE SUPPORT
NATIONAL SUICIDE
PREVENTION WEEK



The *NEW* Banner



Message from the President

Well, we have almost made it through another New Orleans summer. The heat has been oppressive but it hasn't slowed PFLAG down one bit. We have been blessed to partner with two outstanding organizations who have designated our scholarship program as the recipient of their fundraising efforts.

I'd like to thank the Gulf South LGBT Chamber of Commerce and the New Orleans Track Club for their generosity and support. Both events were well-attended and everyone had an awesome time. We have also made it through another Southern Decadence, which was overwhelmingly successful for the city and the LGBTQ community.

The Board held its annual election of new officers and we're proud to have the following individuals on board; please welcome Brent Mundt, Anthony Cimino, Courtney Sharp and Brian LaBella. They bring a wealth of knowledge and boundless energy to our Board.

We are now looking forward to moving into fall and the events that go with it. That means we will need volunteers--lots of volunteers. It is so easy now to sign up to help through our improved website. So, check us out there and please volunteer.

Your Board of Directors is in contact with all of our partners to strengthen those relationships and find avenues to new partners. One of our biggest partners is Crescent Care Health and have been so for many years. The 2019 Chevron/Crescent Care Walk to End HIV is happening on Saturday, September 28, at the Great Lawn at Woldenberg Park. PFLAG has staffed the Individual Registration Check-In Booth for many, many years. This is their 30th anniversary for the walk and I want to make sure we show our support by having an impressive squad of volunteers.

Finally, I would like to thank our Board of Directors for their tireless

commitment to serving this organization and our community. None of the things we have accomplished and continue to work on would ever happen without their help.

Wayne Christenberry,
President, PFLAG New Orleans



Community Calendar

What's going on, Louisiana? Click here to see the Activity Calendar. Do you have something important to add? Send a message to info@pflagno.org.

[Click to go to the Calendar](#)



At the General Membership Meeting on August 8, 2019, the following candidates were elected to PFLAG New Orleans' Board of Directors:

Courtney Sharp, Tony Cimino, Brian LaBella, and Brent Mundt!

Congratulations and we look forward to your ideas, efforts, and leadership!









Belle Reve is Ceasing Operations.

Belle Reve NOLA

July 15 at 1:36 PM ·

July 15th, 2019

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Due to discontinuation of federal funding allocated to group homes for those with HIV/AIDS, it is with great sadness that the Board of Directors of Shelter Resources Inc. d.b.a. Belle Reve NOLA announces it must close our three housing facilities.

The Belle Reve House and the Belle Esprit Apartments, which housed a combined total of twelve individuals living with HIV/AIDS, will close on July 31st, 2019. The Belle Grace House, which houses seven clients, will remain open temporarily, while housing is sought for these individuals, as well.

Shelter Resources' staff, in collaboration with other HIV agencies funded by a federal grant program called "Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS" (HOPWA), is working diligently to issue Tenant Based Rental Assistance vouchers and immediately find apartments to house our clients. Shelter Resources, Inc. is committed to finding safe, appropriate housing for all of our clients. None will be discharged to the streets. All will be treated with the respect they deserve.

This is a direct result of "HOPWA Modernization", which requires a different housing model. The preferred housing model is now low barrier, "Housing First" apartment living. The Board of Directors of Shelter Resources, Inc. is committed to adopting a new mission, in order to continue serving the citizens of New Orleans.

Shelter Resources, Inc. is profoundly grateful to all of those in the community who have supported its mission through these many years.

PARTNERSHIP



In August, the **Gulf South Gay and Lesbian Chamber** held a fundraiser (benefiting PFLAG New Orleans) at the very beautiful Pearl Wine Company.

What is the the Chamber and who benefits from it? The short answer is that the Chamber is a group of LGBT+ business owners and professionals that help each other become more successful, while having a business voice--as well as a source of assistance in getting a business certified as being gay-owned.

Of course, the Chamber is much more than this, as it provides great networking opportunities. Learn more about the chamber in these pictures and join PFLAG in our association with the GS GLCC!



About GSC & NGLCC

- Affiliate chamber of National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC):
 - NGLCC was found in 2002 and is the business voice of the LGBT community, the largest advocacy organization dedicated to expanding economic opportunities and advancements for the LGBT business community, and the exclusive certifying body for LGBT-owned businesses.
 - Nearly 1,200 Certified LGBT Business Enterprises; 200 Corporate Partnerships; 60 Affiliate Chambers
- Gulf South LGBT Chamber of Commerce (GSC) was founded in 2013:
 - Mission: to promote an inclusive business environment by connecting LGBT-owned/operated and allied businesses in the Gulf South Region.
 - Vision: a society where individuals and businesses have equal rights, equal representation and equal opportunities.
 - The Gulf Chamber provides LGBT certification assistance to companies located in the Gulf South region who qualify for National LGBT certification through the NGLCC.
 - Represents LGBT-owned businesses and actively promotes and creates supplier diversity and procurement opportunities for our growing base of corporate partners, business members, and interested parties.
 - Provides members with transformational networking and educational opportunities that increase the financial, intellectual and social capital of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender business community.

Benefits of Becoming a Member

- Waiver of certification fees; certification with NGLCC is good for two years. Assistance through the certification process.
- More businesses (nearly 200 corporate sponsors) are committed to including certified LGBT businesses in their procurement bids processes as part of their supplier diversity programs, thus creating greater opportunity for financial/business growth.
- Access: certification as a LGTBIE gives your business the opportunity to compete for sourcing contracts with the GSC/NGLCC's Corporate Partners. Work with LGTBIEs to leverage certification based on business goals.
- Capacity Development: Mentoring and education opportunities including workshops, webinars and lunch-n-learns; in some cases, scholarship programs. Conduct monthly webinars for business and professional development.
- Support Community: Network with other diverse-owned businesses and be eligible to participate in social media and other advocacy programs.
- Inclusion in the GSC/NGLCC online database of certified businesses, accessible by GSC/NGLCC Corporate Partners and government agencies seeking LGBT suppliers.
- Use of the NGLCC Certified Business logo on your marketing materials, which identifies your business as a certified LGBT Business Enterprise through the NGLCC to the NGLCC's national network.
- Eligibility to receive sourcing opportunities e-mails from the NGLCC and its Corporate Partners.
- Discounts to NGLCC's Annual International Conference and eligibility to exhibit at NGLCC's international business conference and regional events.



New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus Invites You to Join!



OPEN REHEARSALS FOR NEW AND RETURNING SINGERS

TUESDAYS:

In New Orleans: 9/3, 9/10, 9/17

7:30 PM

UNO Performing Arts Center
2nd Floor - Chorus Room

THURSDAYS:

In Baton Rouge: 9/5, 9/12, 9/19

7:30 PM

University Presbyterian Church
3240 Dalrymple Dr.
2nd Floor - Choir Room

Questions? Need additional info?
[Email info@nogmc.com.](mailto:info@nogmc.com)



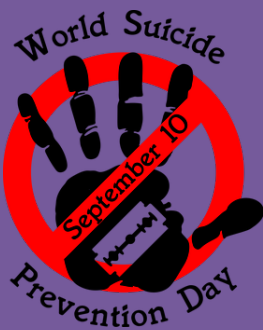
Big Freedia to Headline the Walk to End HIV; Synes is Opening Act. Fox 8's David Bernard Will Emcee

On Saturday, September 28th, hundreds of people will walk as one in the 30th Annual Walk to End HIV presented by Chevron and Avita Pharmacy to benefit HIV services of CrescentCare and NO/AIDS Task Force. This is the same great event as the NO/AIDS WALK with just a name change to reduce stigma in the community. The 3 mile Walk/Run raises awareness of the impact HIV/AIDS continues to have on our community by honoring those living with the disease and remembering those who have passed on.

All money raised at the Walk, stays right here in New Orleans. The funds raised at the allows CrescentCare (NO/AIDS Task Force) to continue to provide critical help to the thousands of individuals who depend on its essential HIV services: primary medical care, HIV and STI testing, counseling, prevention education, housing and nutritional assistance, and much more.

[Click here to volunteer with the PFLAG Team!](#)

If you or someone you know is going through emotional turmoil, there is no need for either of you to feel helpless. Transgender individuals can find much-needed support and assistance that will relieve life's stress. These two organizations can definitely help:



THE **TREVOR** PROJECT
LGBTQ CRISIS HOTLINE
CALL 1-866-488-7386

HOT LGBT NEWS



[The ATC Visits the Phoenix Bar... AGAIN.](#)

[A Hospital Misgendered Her Suicidal Trans Son](#)

[What Does a Church Open to LGBT Catholics Look Like?](#)

[Trans Woman Beaten on Oregon Beach After Using Women's Restroom](#)

[Player Wants to Rejoin Pro Football... as an Out Bisexual Man](#)

Do you have a comment about an article? Send your thoughts to:

info@pflagno.org



Suggested Reading

Every month, parents ask for suggested reading. These two books are recommended by parents from the **PFLAG Northshore Support Group** for parents trying to reconcile homosexuality with their Faith. If you buy these books, please use Amazon Smile with us as your designated charity.

[REASONABLE DOUBT: A Case for LGBTQ Inclusion in the Institutions of Marriage and Church.](#) Scott McQueen.

It was like the proverbial "Shot heard around the world!" On April 8, 2014, Scott McQueen, a Southern Baptist pastor of 31 years, along with his family, met his greatest challenge when his youngest child publicly admitted that he was gay. Whether you are a member of the LGBTQ community desiring biblical affirmation, a straight family member of an LGBTQ individual, who is attempting to sort out all the obvious questions or a conservative Christian who has always been taught that same-sex behavior is condemned by God, THIS BOOK IS FOR YOU!

[STRANGER AT THE GATE: To Be Gay and Christian in America.](#) Mel White.

Until Christmas Eve 1991, Mel White was regarded by

the leaders of the religious right as one of their most talented and productive supporters. He penned the speeches of Ollie North. He was a ghostwriter for Jerry Falwell, worked with Jim Bakker, flew in Pat Robertson's private jet, walked sandy beaches with Billy Graham. What these men didn't know was that Mel White—evangelical minister, committed Christian, family man—was gay.



This month, PFLAG received this testimonial that left us with tears in our eyes and warmth in our hearts:

Shortly after my son, Scott, graduated high school in 1990, he came out to his dad and me.

At the time, I had no suspicions about his being gay. When he came out to me, I was so frustrated about the AIDS epidemic and the associated stigma that I even told him to become a priest - would you believe? I was so confused. Since I was a strict Catholic, we even made a praying pilgrimage to Medjugorje, in former Yugoslavia, in 1988 to help us with issues concerning the paths in life that he was taking. I wanted him to find peace and his true self.

I consulted a priest, who said, "Love the sinner, not the sin", implying that Scott's being gay was a sin?. That really made me want to get support- but not from the church. I thought we both needed help to get through this, so we joined PFLAG New Orleans and began to attend the meetings together. We met so many helpful leaders and young people coming to terms with their sexuality. The two leaders who stand out in my mind are Stewart Butler and Sandra Paillet. They were wonderful.

When PFLAG announced that they would issue five scholarships for the first time sponsored by this chapter of PFLAG, Scott applied and was awarded one of the five scholarships. We were elated and so proud. Since he had not come out to our extended family we could not share our excitement. Well, at that time, Andre Trevine who was a local TV host, and she called all five recipients for interviews on her morning show-- Scott was the only one who considered it. He called me first to ask my opinion whether he should do it or not. With much contemplation, despite knowing our family didn't know about Scott, I was so proud of him and I advised him to just go with it. He did the interview and even before it was over, news traveled like wildfire. His cousins let their mom know and then - lo and behold - news reached his conservatively private Mawmaw.

No one cared that he was honored with the scholarship, only that he was gay. Mawmaw did not want anyone she knew to know that her grandson was gay and that it would ruin her

family name. She didn't speak to him for a very long time, but eventually came to her senses as time passed because she loved him so much.

The scholarship helped Scott financially to get his degree and become a physical therapist assistant and has been one for 20 years. He is a proud owner of a home in the Bywater and is a great asset to his community, protecting the needs of the entire neighborhood. Needless to say, PFLAG helped us through a difficult time and made us proud to be associated with such a beneficial support group for young people coming to terms with their sexuality.

Scott and I will be forever indebted to all of the mentors who led him along the path of discovering his true identity. It's amazing how our life paths lead to who we really are. Thank you, PFLAG.

Linda.

Sally's Showstopper will return next month.



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

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

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Staff of PFLAG N.O. Banner

Editors: Courtney Sharp and Alberto Oliver
Contributors: Ms. Linda Hourcade, Vivek Khanna
Visuals: Courtney Sharp



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