

News and Views

Eastern Idaho Chapter of PFLAG
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Sunday April 24th, 2005

HIV Testing Available @ 5:30 p.m.

Chapter Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Unitarian Church

555 E Street, Idaho Falls

Arlene England from District Seven Health Dept. will be available from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. to perform free and confidential HIV testing. She will also present a program about STD's, which will include HIV and Hepatitis.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The following programs and refreshments are either taken care of or need volunteers. Please do your share!! Sign up at the next meeting or contact a board member.

Month Program Refreshments

Jan Pizza and soft drinks provided

Feb View "Tough Talk" Wayne & Cherie

Mar Support Meeting

Apr District Seven Health Candy & Kieth

March Chapter Meeting

Six people attended the March meeting, which happened to fall on Easter Sunday. No program had been planned for this meeting but a good small group discussion was held.

PFLAG MISSION STATEMENT

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered persons, and their families and friends, through support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

WHEN YOU NO LONGER NEED PFLAG

PFLAG NEEDS YOU!

Support Network:

Jim and Henrietta 522-3228

Bill and Ann F. 529-0919

Board Members & PFLAG Volunteers

President Cherie Stevens

Vice-President/Secretary Jon

Program VP Open

Membership VP, Treasurer Jim Be.

Newsletter Publisher Sharon

Newsletter Editor Wayne Stevens

Transgender Contact R. Kay Snyder

Advocacy R. Kay Snyder

Support Hank

Religious Liaison Barbara Condon

PFLAG YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Next meeting to be April 22nd 7 p.m.
at the Community Resource Center

We need input from the PFLAG youth and others to help increase outreach regarding the PFLAG Youth Group.

Volunteers to staff Youth Group meetings are also needed.

Please contact a board member to volunteer.

SUMMARY REPORT FROM THE BOARD

(The next meeting will be on Wednesday May 11th at 7:00 p.m., at Wayne & Cherie's). No board meeting was held in April.

BREAKING BOUNDARIES/SOUTHEAST IDAHO AIDS COALITION SELECTED AS THE SPONSOR CHARITY FOR THE MOUNTAIN BREWER'S BEER FEST EVENT FOR 2005, IN IDAHO FALLS--Volunteers & Auction items needed!

The North American Brewers Association will sponsor the Eleventh Annual Mountain Brewer's Beer Fest For Charity on June 4, 2005 at the Sandy Downs Race Track south of Idaho Falls, Idaho. The association has selected the Breaking Boundaries organization to be the featured sponsor charity, assist with the event and as a result receive a major proportion of the net profit from the event. Past events have drawn crowds of up to 6000 people. Auction items big or small, preferably new items, are needed. Small items donated will be placed with other items to make an auction item. Volunteer help for the event is also needed. If you can volunteer call Theron McGriff or email him at theronmcgriff@aol.com Breaking Boundaries has the opportunity to make many thousands of dollars for helping those living with AID's with basic needs. Our PFLAG Chapter is responsible for a "Summer Party Package" for the silent auction which will provide an opportunity for outreach. If you can donate or obtain a donation of an appropriate item (the donor will be acknowledged at the event), contact Wayne at 208-522-6699 or 521-7169.

THE IDAHO FALLS PFLAG WEBSITE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Visit www.ifpflag.org. Suggestions for the site are welcome!

CONNECTICUT SENATE APPROVES CIVIL UNIONS BILL....Advocate.com, April 7, 2005

The Connecticut Senate on Wednesday approved a landmark bill that would make the state the first to recognize civil unions for same-sex couples without being pressured by the courts. After nearly four hours of debate, senators voted 27-9 in favor of the legislation, which proponents say will likely clear the state house of representatives--possibly as early as next week. Gov. M. Jodi Rell, a Republican, has not taken a stand on the bill but has said she supports the concept of civil unions. While opponents of the plan warned that it was the final step toward allowing same-sex marriage, supporters said the state should be proud to voluntarily extend basic human rights to thousands of gay and lesbian couples. "I believe that our most precious and important job is to make sure the rights of all our citizens are protected where they exist and expanded where they don't exist," said Sen. Mary Ann Handley, a Manchester Democrat, who is part of a group of legislators that plans to press for same-sex marriage in Connecticut in the future....Gay rights proponents originally hoped to pass a bill similar to the Massachusetts law that allows same-sex couples to marry. But legislative leaders determined that there was more political support this session for Vermont-style civil unions, which extend the same rights and privileges of marriage but without the marriage license. According to the 2000 census, 7,400 same-sex couples reside in Connecticut. (AP)

GAY U.S. SOLDIER WANTS TO SERVE OPENLY

....By Malia Rulon, April 7, 2005

Washington AP-- An Army sergeant who was wounded in Iraq wants a chance to remain in the military as an openly gay soldier, a desire that's bringing him into conflict with the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Sgt. Robert Stout, 23, says he has not encountered trouble from fellow soldiers and would like to stay if not for the policy that permits gay men and women to serve only if they keep their sexual orientation a secret. "I know a ton of gay men that would be more than willing to stay in the Army if they could just be open," Stout said in an interview with

The Associated Press. "But if we have to stay here and hide our lives all the time, it's just not worth it."....

TREVOR PROJECT INCLUDES SUICIDE HOTLINE

The Trevor Project is a nonprofit organization that promotes tolerance for LGBT and questioning teenagers and aids in suicide prevention among that group. More information on the Trevor Project can be found at www.TheTrevorProject.org. The Trevor Helpline 1-866 488-7386 (lines are open 24 hours a day, every day). The Trevor Helpline is a phone bank staffed by trained counselors willing to help those in crisis, or those wanting information on how to help someone in crisis. The call is free and won't appear on your phone bill.

A NEW SERVICE FOR FINDING GLBT FRIENDLY SERVICES IS AVAILABLE ON-LINE

DiversityBuilder.com has recently partnered with PFLAG and has volunteered to research and respond to any PFLAG chapter requests for local glbt-friendly doctors, dentists, counselors, or businesses. The service co-founder wrote: "We are performing this free service as our thanks to all the wonderful things you do at PFLAG. I want to introduce myself personally to you. I am Rachel Stanton, co-founder of www.DiversityBuilder.com, with my life partner, Debbie. Debbie and I continue to be inspired by PFLAG's efforts to build a world of inclusivity."

COURT UPHOLDS GROUNDBREAKING CALIFORNIA DP (DOMESTIC PARTNER)

LAW...Advocate.com, Apr 6, 2005

A state appeals court ruled Monday that California's groundbreaking domestic-partner registry does not violate a voter-approved initiative defining marriage as a union of a man and a woman. California's new domestic-partner law, which gives registered partners many of the same rights and protections of marriage, does not conflict with a voter-approved initiative that defined marriage as a union of a man and a woman, a state appeals court ruled Monday. The law, which was signed in 2003 by former governor Gray Davis and went into effect January 1, represents the nation's most sweeping recognition of domestic-partner rights after Vermont's recognition of civil unions for gay couples. It grants registered couples virtually every spousal right available under state law except the ability to file joint income taxes.... A San Francisco County superior court judge ruled last month that laws limiting marriage to one man and one woman are unconstitutional, as was Proposition 22, because it barred the state from recognizing same-sex marriages performed elsewhere. Both laws violate the civil rights of gays and lesbians because they "implicate the basic human right to marry a person of one's choice," Judge Richard Kramer wrote. The ruling was immediately appealed and will likely go to the California supreme Court. There are now about 29,000 couples registered as domestic partners, according to the secretary of state's office.

JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING PFLAG CHAPTER.

The Jackson Wyoming PFLAG Chapter meets monthly on the third Monday evening at St. John's House, which is part of St. John's Episcopal Church. The entrance is on Glenwood. You are welcome to be in touch if you have questions. The meeting runs from 7 - 8:30 PM.

Jackson PFLAG, Mark Houser, P.O. Box 2683, Jackson, WY 83001. Phone 307-733-8349 or e-mail at:

JacksonPFLAG@yahoo.com

REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT ALONE