

News and Views

Eastern Idaho Chapter of PFLAG
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Chapter Meeting Sunday February 27th, 2005
7:00 p.m.
Unitarian Church
555 E Street, Idaho Falls

Two members from our PFLAG Chapter debated a conservative minister and a conservative radio talk show host on the subject of gay marriage for a TV program entitled "Tough Talk," on Feb 13th. We will view this program, followed by a group discussion. Come join in the discussions & fellowship.

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
Nov	No regular Chapter meeting!	
Dec	Holiday Party on Dec 12th	Potluck
Dec	No regular Chapter meeting!	
Jan	Pizza and soft drinks provided	
Feb	View "Tough Talk"	Wayne & Cherie

January Chapter meeting

Ten people attended the January Chapter meeting. Personal experiences were shared and the subject of the proposed anti-gay amendment to the Idaho Constitution was discussed. Pizza and beverages were provided by our PFLAG Chapter.

PFLAG MISSION STATEMENT

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, 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. 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 Open

PFLAG YOUTH GROUP NEWS
Next meeting to be Feb 25th 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 Mar 9th at 7:00 p.m., at Wayne & Cherie's). No board meeting was held in Feb .

JACKSON HOLE WYOMING HAS A PFLAG CHAPTER.

A PFLAG Chapter was organized in Jackson Wyoming last fall. They meet monthly on a 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 8300. Phone 307-733-8349 or e-mail at: JacksonPFLAG@yahoo.com

THE IDAHO FALLS PFLAG WEBSITE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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

EASTERN IDAHO CHAPTER OF PFLAG INVITED TO WORK WITH THE UNITED VISION FOR IDAHO

In January two members from our PFLAG Chapter were invited to attend a meeting in Idaho Falls, and help organize an equality conference in Idaho Falls with the United Vision for Idaho (UVI). Founded in 1995, United Vision for Idaho is non-partisan and its 21 organizational members represent over 50,000 people throughout Idaho. UVI includes people living in poverty, people of color, women, people with disabilities, conservationists, farmers and farm workers, labor union members, educators, human rights activists, people of faith, nurses and social workers. To learn more about UVI visit their web site at: www.uvidaho.org

UTAH HAS ITS FIRST OPENLY GAY
SENATOR....Equality Alert, Feb 7, 2005

"Salt Lake City -- On a historic day, Scott McCoy, vice chair of Equality Utah and former campaign manager for the Don't Amend Alliance, was appointed this morning as a state senator representing Utah's 2nd district by Gov. Jon Huntsman as his partner Mark Barr, his parents and community leaders looked on. McCoy was elected in a surprise move by delegates on Saturday to fill the seat vacated by community ally Paula Julander who resigned due to illness. McCoy joins Rep. Jackie Biskupski (D-Salt Lake City) as the legislature's only openly gay members; he is the first member to serve in the Utah State Senate and will be one of eight Democrats in the 29 member body. He was officially sworn in by the Senate this morning...."

GAY MARRIAGE VOTE POSTPONED IN
MASSACHUSETTS, Avocate.com....Jan 14, 2005

In a move that could bode well for gay rights, the leader of the Massachusetts senate will delay a second vote by lawmakers on whether to amend the state constitution to ban same-sex marriage, The Boston Globe reports. Senate president Robert Travaglini says the legislature has more pressing concerns this spring, such as health care, the budget, and job creation, unnamed sources told the newspaper. Senate minority leader Brian P. Lees, a Republican, confirmed the decision to the Globe. "In informal discussions with the senate president, we both agree there are a number of other items of importance that should be discussed on the senate floor before we get to this issue," he said. "It could come up as late as fall." The proposed amendment would ban gay marriage but create a civil union system for same-sex couples. If lawmakers approve the amendment for a second time, it will go to voters in November 2006. A recent survey showed that 53% of Massachusetts voters say they want to see the amendment on the ballot, the newspaper reported. Even with a vote happening in the fall, it could be a close call for both sides. "We still don't have the votes, and we are still far from having the votes," Arline Isaacson, cochairwoman of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, told the newspaper. "We also have not geared up fully. We fully expect a huge battle from the other side. It won't be an easy vote at all."

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 4u-trevor. The Trevor Helpline is geared toward helping those in crisis, or those wanting information on how to help someone in crisis. THANKS TO 14 SENATORS THE IDAHO SENATE STOPPED A BID TO CHANGE IDAHO'S

CONSTITUTION TO DEFINE MARRIAGE....Feb 2, 05
Yesterday the Idaho Senate stopped SJR101, the constitutional amendment to define marriage. A two thirds majority vote was needed to pass the "anti-gay marriage and civil unions" amendment in the Idaho Senate. To stop SJR101 twelve no votes were needed. We all need to thank the following senators for their no vote.
Republican senators who voted against SJR101: Sen. John Andreason, Boise (Dist. 15) Email: jandreas@senate.idaho.gov
Sen. Charles Coiner, Twin Falls (Dist. 24) Email: ccoiner@senate.idaho.gov
Sen. Richard Compton, Coeur d'Alene (Dist. 5) Email: dcompton@senate.idaho.gov
Sen. Tom Gannon, Buhl (Dist. 23) Email: tgannon@senate.idaho.gov
Sen. John Goedde, Coeur d'Alene (Dist. 4) Email: jgoedde@senate.idaho.gov
Sen. Brad Little, Emmett (Dist. 11) Email: blittle@senate.idaho.gov
Sen. Gary Schroeder, Moscow (Dist. 6) Email: gschroed@senate.idaho.gov
Sen. Joe Stegner, Lewiston (Dist. 7) Email: jstegner@senate.idaho.gov
Democratic senators who voted against SJR101:
Sen. Mike Burkett, Boise (Dist. 19) Email: mburkett@senate.idaho.gov
Sen. Kate Kelly, Boise (Dist. 18) Email: kkelly@senate.idaho.gov
Sen. David Langhorst, Boise (Dist. 16) Email: dlanghor@senate.idaho.gov
Sen. Edgar Malepeai, Pocatello (Dist. 30) Email: emalepea@senate.idaho.gov
Sen. Clint Stennett, Ketchum (Dist. 25) Email: cstennet@senate.idaho.gov
Sen. Eliot Werk, Boise (Dist. 17) Email: ewerk@senate.idaho.gov

"In order to be able to live at all in America I must be unafraid to live anywhere in it, and I must be able to live in the fashion and with whom I choose."

Alice Walker, 1983

REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT ALONE

WHEN YOU NO LONGER NEED
PFLAG
PFLAG NEEDS YOU!