



News and Views

Eastern Idaho Chapter of PFLAG
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Sunday March 26th, 2006
PFLAG YOUTH GROUP 6:00 p.m.
CHAPTER MEETING 7:00 p.m.
Unitarian Church
555 E Street, Idaho Falls

This month's Chapter meeting will focus on being out in high school. Is it easy today or not? A student from Hillcrest High School will tell his story and answer questions.

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
Aug	Annual Picnic	Potluck
Sep	Video about gay marriage	Wayne & Cherie
Oct	Presentation by John S.	Kirk & Kathee
Dec	HOLIDAY PARTY	FINGER FOOD POTLUCK
Jan	Video "Fish Can't Fly"	Jim & Sharon
Feb	Sharing Program ideas	POTLUCK DINNER
Mar	Out in High School	Hank & Jim

FEBRUARY MEETING

Eleven people attended the potluck dinner meeting. We had lots of good food and discussions. Thanks to Grey for volunteering to make a tapestry for our Chapter to be included with other PFLAG Chapter tapestries at the upcoming Northwest Regional PFLAG Conference to be held in April of this year.

OUR PFLAG CHAPTER TO HELP BREAKING BOUNDARIES WITH A SUMMER GAMES PACKAGE FOR THE BEER FEST AUCTION.

Please consider donating a "summer game" for the silent auction events at this year's Beer Fest contact Wayne at 208-521-7169, bring to a PFLAG meeting or give to Theron. Some examples of summer games include volleyball, badminton, frisbee, golf, croquet, board games, water games, etc.

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	Rev. Barbara Condon

PFLAG YOUTH GROUP NEWS
Next meeting to be Feb 26th, 6 p.m.
at the Unitarian Church

Until Further Notice: Youth Group meetings will be held before the Chapter meetings at 6 p.m. at the Unitarian Church.

There will be NO Youth Group meetings on the second & fourth Fridays until further notice.

BREAKING BOUNDARIES/SOUTHEAST IDAHO AIDS COALITION SELECTED AGAIN AS THE SPONSOR CHARITY FOR THE MOUNTAIN BREWER'S BEER FEST EVENT FOR 2006, IN IDAHO FALLS—Volunteers & Auction items needed!

The North American Brewers Association will sponsor the Annual Mountain Brewer's Beer Fest For Charity on June 3, 2005 at the Sandy Downs Race Track south of Idaho Falls, Idaho. The association has selected the Breaking Boundaries organization, for the second year in a row, 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. **Last year Breaking Boundaries made over \$23,000 at Beer Fest.** If anyone can help, here is what we need. 1. For you to keep your calendar open for that Saturday (June 3). 2. Donate items for the raffle or auction. We can use anything. 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 We also want to make 20 or so "packages" for example, a summer picnic package, a weekend in SLC with show tickets etc. The values of the packages should not be over \$500. Big items (like shotguns, trunks, larger artwork etc) did great last year too. Those are the immediate needs, so please let Theron know if you have something to donate...and nothing is too small or too large!!

DRAG SHOW AT IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 1, 2006

A great drag show is scheduled for Saturday April 1, 2006 in the ISU Student Union Ballroom. Last year over 300 people attended and this year should be better. Tickets will be available at the door. The doors open at 7:00 p.m. and the show starts at 8:00 p.m.

RED CROSS CALLS FOR END TO BAN ON GAY BLOOD DONORS....Advocate.com, March 14, 2006

Red Cross joins two other agencies in calling for end to lifetime ban on gay blood donors. Officials from the American Red Cross, speaking at a recent blood donation conference in Maryland, called for an end to the federal government's ban on gay and bisexual blood donors, the Washington Blade reports. A Food and Drug Administration policy in place since 1985 bans donations from any man who's ever had sex with another man—even one time—since 1977. Even gay men who've tested negative for HIV antibodies and those who are in monogamous relationships are barred for life from donating blood. Government officials, when launching the ban, said it was needed to guarantee the safety of donated blood in the country since gay men were significantly more likely to be infected with HIV than heterosexual men. But the Red Cross is now joining with the American Association of Blood Banks and America's Blood Centers in calling for an end to the lifetime ban on gay donors. "The AABB, ABC, and ARC believe that the current lifetime deferral for men who have had sex with other men is medically and scientifically unwarranted and recommend that deferral criteria be modified and made compatible with criteria for other groups at increased risk for sexual transmission of transfusion-transmitted infections," the groups said in a joint statement issued at the advisory panel meeting, reports the Blade. "Because of advances in blood-screening technology, the ban on gay blood donors is unnecessary since virtually all infected blood—from both heterosexual and gay donors—is caught in the screening process. Instead of barring gay donors, prospective donors of all sexual orientations should be asked about any recent risky sexual activity, particularly in the three weeks prior to donating blood, as it is possible for very early HIV infections to be missed during blood screening. The American Association of Blood Banks in 2000 lobbied for an end to the lifetime ban of gay blood donors, calling instead for a one-year deferral for all gay-male donors. The Red Cross, which supplies about half the nation's blood supply, was opposed to the proposed change, but the organization now says that with better screening methods in place it is now comfortable in calling for an end to the gay ban.

WHEN YOU NO LONGER NEED PFLAG

PFLAG NEEDS YOU!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE NORTHWEST PFLAG REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN PORTLAND

The Double Tree Hotel near Lloyd's Center in Portland, Oregon will be the location for the April 21-23, 2006 NW PFLAG Regional Conference. Attending PFLAG conferences is always a great uplifting and educational experience. At this conference you will have an opportunity to meet several people from National PFLAG, including Sam Thoron (National President, Saturday Keynote), Jody Huckaby (Executive Director; Keynote and Plenary session), the new Field & Policy Coordinator for our region and Judy Hoff (Safe Schools Coordinator; Workshop Presenter). Dr Robert Minor will present a workshop on Friday afternoon and Dotti Berry and Robynne Sapp, who are on a yearlong journey called "Gay Into Straight America" will share their experiences on Sunday morning. For more information and registration forms contact Wayne or visit the following web site: <http://nwpflagconf.tripod.com> . You can download the registration form from this web site.

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

INFLUENTIAL LAW JOURNAL ENDORSES SAME- SEX MARRIAGE IN N.J....Advocate.com, March 14, 06

New Jersey Law Journal now supports same-sex marriage over domestic partnerships. Marriage equality for New Jersey gay couples just got a big new endorsement: the influential New Jersey Law Journal. As the state's supreme court decides whether to legalize same-sex marriage—a decision is expected within months—the Law Journal published an editorial on Monday stating its support for marriage equality. "On February 15, the New Jersey supreme court heard oral arguments in Lewis v. Harris, a case that will decide whether same-sex couples have a right to marry under the New Jersey constitution," the editorial read. "We endorse the right of people of the same sex to marry and urge the court to declare that such a right is rooted in our state constitution.".... "Although, the legislature's Domestic Partnership Act may have addressed some of the concerns of same-gender couples, it essentially created a 'separate, but not equal' status for domestic partners that not only failed to provide for equality of rights but also failed to provide many same-sex couples with what they truly seek: dignity. As one of the justices pointed out, '[The plaintiffs] want the respect and respectability of marriage and the stature and status of marriage.' This lack of equality is not only unfair, it is unconstitutional."

REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT ALONE

