



News and Views

Eastern Idaho Chapter of PFLAG
PO Box 52242
Idaho Falls, ID 83405-2242
e-mail: PFLAGinEID@aol.com
Phone 522-1057
web page <http://www.ifpflag.org>
Voice Mail Phone 522-1057

Sunday September 25th, 2005
Chapter Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Unitarian Church
555 E Street, Idaho Falls

This month we will view an April 11, 2005 speech by San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom entitled "The Status of Same-Sex Marriage" and recorded by one of our PFLAG members from a television program. The speech covers the events that led to his action to permit same-sex marriage in San Francisco and the fallout from that action. His 35 minute speech is spell binding. Come enjoy the video, refreshments, support & 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
July	Support & Games	R. Kay & Jim
Aug	ANNUAL PICNIC	POTLUCK
Sep	Video about gay marriage	Wayne & Cherie

SIXTY PEOPLE ATTEND ANNUAL PFLAG PICNIC

Sixty people arrived at Sealander Park for the annual PFLAG picnic. The weather was perfect, the food plentiful, and everyone had fun. Door prizes were given to everyone present after the picnic feast. Thanks to Kirk and Kathee for providing the inflatable jumping room for the kids to enjoy. Thanks to everyone who brought food. The leftover food was donated to the "City of Refuge" (a local homeless shelter for men).

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.

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 Sept 23rd, 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.

meetings are also needed.

Please contact a board member to volunteer.

THE JUNE MOUNTAIN BREWER'S BEER FEST EVENT FOR 2005, HELD IN IDAHO FALLS, NETTED BREAKING BOUNDARIES \$21,150!

The North American Brewers Association Eleventh Annual Mountain Brewer's Beer Fest For Charity was held on June 4, 2005 near Idaho Falls, Idaho. This event broke all records for the most money made with auction items, raffle items, T shirt sales and gate receipts. Breaking Boundaries/Southeast Idaho AIDS Coalition was the selected charity and received 82% of the profit revenue for the event. After expenses the net amount was \$21,150. Thanks to all the PFLAG members and supporters who donated time to help with the Beer Fest and items for the auction. The PFLAG sponsored Summer Party Package for the auction brought \$450! Many additional items were also donated by PFLAG members!

Breaking Boundaries will use the money to help provide basic needs for those living with AIDS and to promote diversity in Idaho.

CALIFORNIA SUPREME COURT MAKES LEGAL HISTORY...MSNBC.com, August 22, 2005

(San Francisco, CA)"The California Supreme Court made legal history today by holding, in three separate decisions, that children born to same-sex couples must be treated equally to other children and thus have a legally protected relationship to both partners. These decisions are a tremendous victory for children, for parental responsibility, and for common sense."In its decision today, the Court held: "A person who actively participates in bringing children into the world, takes the children into her home and holds them out as her own, and receives and enjoys the benefits of parenthood, should be responsible for the support of those children - regardless of her gender or sexual

SUMMARY REPORT FROM THE BOARD

No board meeting was held in August.

MARRIAGE BAN AMENDMENT . . . Steve

LeBlanc, *Asso. Press*, Sept 14, 2005 The Massachusetts Legislature on Wednesday [9-14-05] rejected a proposed constitutional amendment that sought to ban gay marriage but legalize civil unions, a year after the state performed the nation's first government-sanctioned same-sex weddings. It was the second time the Legislature had confronted the measure, which was intended to be put before voters on a statewide ballot in 2006. Under state law, lawmakers were required to approve it in two consecutive sessions before it could move forward. After less than two hours of debate Wednesday, a joint session of the House and Senate voted 157-39 against the measure. It was a striking departure from a year earlier, when hundreds of protesters converged on Beacon Hill and sharply divided legislators spent long hours debating the issue. In that session, in March 2004, lawmakers voted 105-92 in favor of the amendment. This year, the crowds were tamer and some legislators who had initially supported the proposed change to the state constitution said they no longer felt right about denying the right of marriage to thousands of same-sex couples. "Gay marriage has begun, and life has not changed for the citizens of the commonwealth, with the exception of those who can now marry," said state Sen. Brian Lees, a Republican who had been a co-sponsor of the amendment. "This amendment which was an appropriate measure or compromise a year ago, is no longer, I feel, a compromise today."...The state's highest court ruled in November 2003 that same-sex couples had a right under the state constitution to marry. The first weddings took place on May 17, 2004 - two months after lawmakers began the process of trying to change the constitution to reverse the court's ruling. Since then, more than 6,100 couples have married....

U. S. HOUSE PASSES GAY HATE CRIMES

BILL Paul Johnson 365Gay.com Washington Bureau Chief, Sept 14, 2005

(Washington) The House of Representatives passed legislation late Wednesday afternoon to expand federal hate crimes laws to include gays, lesbians and the transgendered. The measure received bipartisan support, passing on a 233 - 199 vote. Called the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act it has passed the Senate in previous congressional sessions only to die in the House.... "Never before has the House of Representatives voted to protect transgender people in any way," said Matt Foreman, Executive Director of the Task Force. "And today marks the first time, outside of procedural motions, that the House has affirmatively voted to extend full hate crimes protections to lesbian, gay and bisexual people. This proves that even in times of adversity for our community, when grassroots voices keep up the pressure on our elected officials, decency can prevail."...

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.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE PASSES BILL LEGALIZING GAY MARRIAGE IN CALIFORNIA

On Monday, September 6, 2005, the California Assembly voted 41 - 35 to pass AB 849, the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act, after the California Senate passed it the week before 21- 15. The bill now goes to Governor Schwarzenegger or his signature or veto. He has until October 6 to make a decision.

CALIFORNIA GOV SAYS HE WILL VETO BILL LEGALIZING GAY MARRIAGE . . . Advocate.com, September 8, 2005

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger announced late Wednesday [9-07-05] that he will veto a bill that would have made California the first state to legalize same-sex marriage through legislative action. Schwarzenegger said that the legislation, given final approval Tuesday by state lawmakers, would conflict with the intent of voters when they approved a ballot initiative five years ago. Proposition 22 prevents California from recognizing same-sex marriages performed in other states or countries. A NOTE From PFLAG National "If you are in California, take a minute to call the Governor's office and urge that he sign the marriage equality bill at 916- 445 -

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

THE IDAHO FALLS PFLAG WEBSITE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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

**REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT ALONE
AND WHEN YOU NO LONGER NEED PFLAG
PFLAG NEEDS YOU!**

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