

# Portland Voice

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P.O. Box 8944, Portland, OR 9720

January, 2012

## President's Message

It's a new year! With it comes the opportunity to reflect on all that happened in 2011 and the opportunity to make plans to build on our accomplishments. And what a year it was! In the quest for equality for all our families on the national front, new legislation and initiatives were proposed in nearly every corner of the country. Just take a look at the headlines from last year's online column, Policy Matters, from PFLAG National: (to read more on any of these topics, go to [pflag.org](http://pflag.org) and click on the blog).

**January 11, 2011:** President Obama Signs Repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell

**February 1, 2011:** Longtime LGBT Activist Roberta Achtenberg of the National Center on Lesbian Rights Appointed to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission

**April 12, 2011:** Secretary Sebelius Announces Important Health Improvements to Include the Rights of Patients to Designate Visitors Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity

**June 14, 2011:** Illinois Begins Issuing Civil Union Licenses; Williams Institute Studies LGBT Employment Discrimination

**June 28, 2011:** NY Senate Passes Marriage Equality Bill; California Prop. 8 Ruling Upheld

**July 11, 2011:** Federal Health Survey to Cover Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity; California LGBT History Bill Passed

**July 26, 2011:** LGBT Hate Crime Increases; Obama Supports Respect for Marriage Act

**September 19, 2011:** Transgender Woman Attacked in McDonalds; NCAA Adopts New Transgender Athlete Policy

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## Monthly Meeting Information

Join us on **January 10, 2012** as we welcome Basic Rights Oregon to PFLAG Portland. BRO will bring us up to date on the latest strategy for winning marriage equality in Oregon, their work with the labor movement and a report on the work of BRO's transgender health care initiative. This should be an informative evening and a chance to ask our leading LGBT political organization questions about their vision and plans moving into 2012. Support group to follow.

**First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson St., Portland. Look for the PFLAG signs.**

## BINGO with PFLAG Portland!!

Come join us on January 15, 2012 from 7-9 at Hamburger Mary's for BINGO and help us raise money for the good work of PFLAG Portland! Just come on down to 19 NW 5th Avenue to get in on the fun. Winners from each BINGO game will receive a special prize from PFLAG. You don't want to miss this!!

## Living Room plans GSA Summit in Clackamas County, Jan. 21

Saturday, January 21, 2012, noon to 5:00 pm, is the time. Clackamas Community College's Roger Rook Hall, 19600 Molalla Ave., Oregon City, is the place.

The Living Room, a safe haven for GLBTQQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning) youth and Allies in Clackamas County is planning our 3rd Annual Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) Summit.

Join us for: An afternoon of workshops, icebreakers, networking, dinner, coffee & tea, snacks, free stuff and tons of FUN!

Visit: [www.thelivingroomyouth.org](http://www.thelivingroomyouth.org) for up-to-date information.

# PFLAG

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## ***President's Message, continued***

**October 4, 2011:** "Standards of Care" for Transgender Individuals Revised

**October 28, 2011:** Servicemembers Legal Defense Network to Sue Over Military Benefits for Spouses of Gay Troops; No Child Left Behind Act Adds Anti-Bullying Language

**November 15, 2011:** Medical Schools Admit Neglect on LGBT Health Issues; New Campaign Strategy for Marriage Equality

**December 1, 2011:** Gender Identity Bill Signed in Massachusetts; Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act Re-Introduced to Congress

Back home in Oregon, the most significant news of the year was undoubtedly the decision by Basic Rights Oregon not to place a referendum on the 2012 ballot to repeal constitutional amendment 36, limiting marriage to one man and one woman. Though hard for many to hear, postponing the effort should ensure success when the issue is taken to the polls. At PFLAG Portland, we stand ready with our LGBT children, brothers and sisters in our desire to hear the wedding bells ring in the very near future!

At PFLAG Portland, two things stand out in my mind

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## ***Spotlight on PFLAG Portland Black Chapter:***

Happy Holiday's to everyone this season. This year has at times seemed like a whirlwind. As this year comes to an end PFLAG Portland Black Chapter would like to look back at some of our highlights that marked 2011.

In February we celebrated our 2 year anniversary with a packed house at the Local Lounge. The Local Lounge is one of the few Queer Bars in NE Portland and has been very supportive of us and our mission. Our anniversary celebration kicked off 2011 great with entertainment and testimony from PFLAG Portland Black Chapter members about what PFLAG means to them. We continued our yearly Mother's Day event this year adding a partnership with Strong Families. Once again we gathered together to honor not only mother's, but all of those in our lives that have been supportive of us. It is always a touching event capped off with drums and storytelling from Brother Askari.

This year PFLAG Portland Black Chapter sponsored Portland Black Pride. It was one of the biggest and most successful Portland Black Pride celebrations ever! We hosted over 12 events in June including our contingent in the Pride parade and a Families Day Out concert in the park.

## ***Calendar of Events***

**January 10, 7:00pm** – Join us as we welcome Basic Rights Oregon to PFLAG Portland. BRO will bring us up to date on the latest strategy for winning marriage equality in Oregon, their work with the labor movement and a report on the work of BRO's transgender health care initiative. This is a chance to ask our leading LGBT political organization questions about their vision and plans moving into 2012. Support group to follow.

**January 12, 2012** – Reid Vanderburgh will be host a book reading from the second edition of his book, "Transition and Beyond: Observations on Gender Identity." 7-9pm at the Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi, Portland

**January 14, 2012 – Gay Oregon Family Show!** Come join us for a wonderful drag performance, benefitting local AIDS organizations. 7:00pm at the Embers.

**January 20, 2012** – Equity hosts the first annual Equity Awards, 11:30AM-1:00PM at the Governor Hotel in downtown Portland. The luncheon event honors Oregon and Southwest Washington businesses that embrace the diversity of the community by having exceptional hiring and employment policies and practices. An emphasis will be placed on policies and practices that promote social justice and provide equal opportunity for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals. For tickets and more information, go to [equityfoundation.org](http://equityfoundation.org).

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### ***(Black PFLAG, continued)***

This year was filled with many highlights including the GSA grant partnership with OSSCC, PFLAG and UCC picnic in the park, of course AIDS Walk where we not only raised money for CAP, but joined thousands in the walk, the Our Families campaign, and many more highlights I hope you were able to join us for.

Next year we are looking forward to lots of exciting events and projects that will not only provide social spaces and support to the community, but will also have an impact on the lives of all of us. Please join us for our 3 year anniversary in February 2012. This year will be even bigger than last year's celebration! We are also looking forward to building our relationships with Gay-Straight Alliances and Queer-Straight Alliances, as well as reaching out to faith communities that serve African Americans in our communities.

In addition to our annual events like Mother's Day, Portland Black Pride, and AIDS Walk, please stay tuned for new events like our Father's Day Celebration.

We have recently been awarded a grant from Western States Center, Mackenzie River Gathering Foundation, and Next Generation Giving Project! With their support and the huge support and commitment from members and volunteers we know that 2012 will be an incredible year!

## ***Yes! I support the mission of PFLAG Portland***

Enclosed is my membership fee. (Your membership includes National PFLAG membership.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Family (\$45)**

**Individual (\$35)**

**Student/Limited Income (\$15)**

**Donation (\$ \_\_\_\_)**

Make check payable to PFLAG Portland. PFLAG is a 501c(3) tax-exempt organization.

**Mail to:** PFLAG, P.O. Box 8944, Portland, OR 97207

### ***The Mission of PFLAG Portland***

We, the parents, families, and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons, celebrate diversity and envision a society that embraces everyone, including those of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. PFLAG promotes the health and well being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons, their families and their friends through support, education, and advocacy. PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and strives to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. Contact PFLAG Portland at 503 232-7676 or visit our website at [www.PFLAGPDX.org](http://www.PFLAGPDX.org).

### ***(President's Message, continued)***

as I think back on 2011: The launch of our mini-grant program to bring small cash grants to our GSAs and other youth-led organizations, and the exciting work being done by PFLAG Portland Black Chapter (see related article by Khalil Edwards, our PFLAG Portland Black Chapter Coordinator).

Our mini-grant program made its first grant in 2011 to Metropolitan Learning Center's GSA to fund the making of buttons and t-shirts for the school-wide solstice festival. Creative, youth-led, and with the aim of raising the visibility of the GSA within school environment – exactly the kind of project we had hoped to fund. Look for more grant announcements in the New Year as word of our program spreads.

Lastly, I'd like to thank the board of PFLAG Portland for their hard work and dedication over the last 12 months. I am proud to call each and every one of you my colleagues – and my friends.

Here's to a productive and progressive 2012. Ready, set, go!

In peace,

Dawn Holt

President, PFLAG Portland

## ***Contact Information PFLAG***

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### **HELP LINE**

**(503) 232-7676**

PFLAG National Website

[www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

Portland Chapter Website

[www.pflagpdx.org](http://www.pflagpdx.org)

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To get this newsletter via email, send an email to [pflagpdxnews@gmail.com](mailto:pflagpdxnews@gmail.com).

**PFLAG**

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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