



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: September 11, 7PM Program, 8PM Support
Program: The Way It Was? The Real History of Marriage

John Ferguson, PFLAG Denver Board President and chair of CAFÉ (Colorado Alliance for Family Equality), and Sarah Winter, a long-time PFLAG Denver leader, will present a PowerPoint presentation of their research about the history of marriage. From pre-history to Hebrew Scriptures to the Middle Ages and into modern times, the nature of marriage has often deviated from the traditional "one man-one woman" image some believe has been the norm for "thousands of years."

It is important to know how marriage continues to evolve, especially because of the November ballot issues. Use this information as valuable talking points as you speak with friends, relatives, and neighbors about the issues on this November's ballot.

Local PFLAG News

Sep 23, 8:30 AM: Ballot Initiative Day of Action PFLAG is co-sponsoring an all-day event focused on educating the community about Referendum I and the Minimum Wage ballot initiative! The event is hosted at Community of Christ Church, 220 East Oak St, Fort Collins. The event includes:

- Canvassing: Learn how to start a conversation about what is going on in November.
- Street visibility: Participate in a targeted, message-driven visibility campaign.
- Letter Writing: Learn why and how to write effective, brief, and personal letters to public officials and newspaper editors.

This event is an incredible opportunity to touch thousands of voters on one single day. If possible, you are asked to attend the entire day, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. However, if you can only participate for part of the day, please still take part in the event. Our goal for the event is over 150 volunteers!

Please wear comfortable shoes and clothes and if you can, bring your cell phone. Breakfast and lunch are provided.

Please send an RSVP to <http://www.progressnowaction.org/page/event/detail/neighborhoodcanvass/wrvm>.

Editor: Julie Wilson

Oct 15, 7:00 PM: Meet PFLAG's Executive Director Jody Huckaby will be in Fort Collins to meet with PFLAG members, supporters of Referendum I, and anyone in the community desiring additional information about Referendum I and Amendment 43. The event will be co-sponsored by Coloradans for Fairness. Save the date. More details will come soon!

News of Regional Interest

Sep 10, 7:00 PM: PFLAG Boulder County invites you to Jennifer Lanier's performance of "None of the Above" at Old Main Theatre across from Macky Auditorium on the CU campus, Boulder. PFLAG Boulder County Youth Leadership Development Endowment Fund benefits from this evening of comedy. Tickets purchased in advance cost \$20. Contact Jean Hodges, 303-444-4580, or Stephanie Wilenchek, 303-492-1377, for more information.

Oct 14, 9:30-4:00: Colorado PFLAG Coalition meeting The quarterly Colorado PFLAG coalition meeting will be held at the Gill Foundation Conference Room, 315 East Costilla St., Colorado Springs. Jody Huckaby, National Executive Director, will talk to us about "THE FAMILY, SEXUALITY, AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY". Each chapter will share their action plan for helping to pass Referendum I.

From 5 to 7 p.m. Coloradans for Fairness and other GLBT-related organizations will sponsor a rally and reception featuring Jody, the Outloud Chorus (Colorado Springs new gay men's chorus), and delicious refreshments. More details will come soon!

Stonewall Democrat Endorsements

The following candidates for office in Colorado have been endorsed by the Colorado Stonewall Democrats:

Bill Ritter (Governor)
 Cary Kennedy (Treasurer)
 Fern O'Brien (Attorney General)
 Ken Gordon (Secretary of State)
 Angie Paccione (CD 4)
 Jay Fawcett (CD 5)
 Bill Winter (CD 6)
 Ed Perlmutter (CD 7)
 Steve Ludwig (CU Regent-at-Large)
 Karen Middleton (Board of Education - CD 7)
 Jennifer Miller (SD 15)

Send news to share and feedback to jw6804@aol.com

Joan Fitz-Gerald (SD 16)
 Betty Boyd (SD 21)
 Chris Romer (SD 32)
 Mike Cerbo (HD 2)
 Joel Judd (HD 5)
 Alice Borodkin (HD 9)
 Jack Pommer (HD 11)
 Paul Weissman (HD 12)
 Claire Levy (HD 13)
 Karen Teja (HD 14)
 Christine Varney (HD 17)
 Mike Merrifield (HD 18)
 Jan Hejtmanek (HD 20)
 Anna Lord (HD 21)
 Mike Daniels (HD 25)
 Andy Kerr (HD 26)
 Tom Dittmore (HD 28)
 Debbie Benefield (HD 29)
 Dianne Primavera (HD 33)
 Mollie Cullom (HD 39)
 Sue Radford (HD 49)
 Jodi Radke (HD 51)
 John Kefalas (HD 52)
 Randy Fischer (HD 53)
 Pauline Artery (HD 63)
 Linda Rockwell (Jefferson County Clerk & Recorder)
 Doug Milliken (Arapahoe County Treasurer)

The Colorado Stonewall Democrats are an LGBT-rights group within the Colorado Democratic Party. Not all candidates that request endorsement receive it. The endorsements were made based on the candidates answers to a CSD questionnaire designed to explore their views on gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) issues. Where applicable, voting records were also examined and taken into account.

I apologize for only publishing the Stonewall Democrat endorsements. I couldn't find the Log Cabin Republican endorsements. Hopefully, I can publish that in the next newsletter.

State of Colorado Ballot Measures

On August 7, Coloradans for Marriage submitted an estimated 131,000 signatures seeking to a state Constitution declaration that marriage is between one man and one woman. Coloradans for Fairness, on the other hand, turned in 137,544 names for a measure that would declare that a domestic partnership is not a marriage. Later, Coloradans for Fairness asked that their initiative be removed from the ballot, since the initiative to ban any relationships similar to marriage failed to get sufficient signatures.

Measures certified to appear on the November ballot include:

- ◆ Amendment 38, which deals with initiative petitions
- ◆ Amendment 40, term limits for Supreme Court and Court of Appeals judges

- ◆ Amendment 41, standards of conduct in government
- ◆ Amendment 42, Colorado minimum wage
- ◆ Amendment 43, anti-gay marriage amendment
- ◆ Amendment 44, marijuana possession
- ◆ Referendum E, which extends the state's homestead exemption to the disabled
- ◆ Referendum F, which removes recall timelines from the Constitution
- ◆ Referendum G, which eliminates obsolete provisions from the Constitution
- ◆ Referendum H, which bans tax deductions for hiring undocumented workers
- ◆ Referendum I, which creates domestic partnerships
- ◆ Referendum J, which creates the Public Schools Expenditure Accountability Act
- ◆ Referendum K, which allows the attorney general to initiate immigrations lawsuits

Notably absent from the ballot however, were controversial measures to ban some abortions, provide taxpayer refunds, ban any relationships similar to marriage, and limit bilingual education.

Election-Related News

A new strategy to win legal recognition for same-sex couples is emerging in Colorado, a state that is a bulwark of the conservative Christian movement. Instead of fighting a constitutional amendment to ban marriage for same-sex couples, at least some gay-rights organizations in Colorado are supporting an initiative to define the rights of people in domestic partnerships, rights that largely parallel those of married couples under Colorado law. Nowhere has such a measure been put to a statewide vote. [[San Francisco Chronicle, Aug 7](#)]

Bob Beauprez has named Mesa County Commissioner Janet Rowland as his running mate in his campaign for governor of Colorado. Rowland is rather infamous for linking gay marriage with bestiality on a TV show in March. [[Denver Post, Aug 16](#)] In February Beauprez was quoted in 5280 magazine as stating he was OK with same-sex unions. He has now taking a more conservative position, claiming that same-sex couples can get all of the benefits of domestic partnerships through contractual agreements. [[Denver Post, Aug 16](#)]

Colorado Family Action has begun its campaign for Amendment 43. To see what the opposition is saying, go to <http://www.cofamily.org/> and click on the "For God's Design" video in the upper right-hand corner.

News of National/Global Interest

Thanks to efforts by HRC, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender families now have more rights with regard to pension inheritance. On August 17 The Federal Pension Protection Act became law. Put simply, the provisions ensure that the U.S. tax code, in times of tragedy, is a lot fairer and a lot more compassionate toward our families than it used to be. [[more](#)]

The 2006 World AIDS Marathon will return to Kenya. Why Kenya? The 2004 World AIDS Marathon was held in Mbita, Kenya. The marathon raised enough money to begin construction of a 50-60-bed home for orphans. However, the full impact of the December marathon was not realized until March 2006 when the World Health Organization issued a report stating that Kenya was only one of two African countries that had a declining rate for new HIV cases. The 2006 World AIDS Marathon will be held in Kisumu, Kenya, on December 2, 2006. The Richard M. Brodsky Foundation in conjunction with Athletics Kenya will sponsor the marathon.

In August we saw a frightening pattern of hate crimes being reported across the country that reflect how so much of the bias against GLBT people and their allies can easily transform into violence and intimidation. The cases included a [cross burning](#) on the property of Brandon Waters of Ten Mile, TN, the [vandalism](#) of the property of Heyward Drummond and John Ellis in Loudoun County, VA, and a [brutal attack on a gay teen and his straight ally](#) in New Mexico.

In Kansas the owners of a bed and breakfast have experienced lots of anti-gay prejudice. Their 12-year-old son gave them a rainbow flag, which has caused lots of problems in the community and led the family to become ardent believers in equality for all persons. [\[more\]](#)

Nearly 2,000 people from all over the world gathered for the International Conference on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Human Rights, an event that collected three conferences into one. The main conference dealt with five themes: Essential Rights, Global Issues, the Diverse GLBT Community, Participation in Society, and Creating Social Change. [\[more\]](#)

Related web site: [ILGA](#)

Also in August, the Equality Federation met in Boston, MA. The Equality Federation defines itself as, "...a network of state/territory organizations committed to working with each other and with national and local groups to strengthen statewide lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender advocacy organizing and secure full civil rights in every U.S. state and territory." [\[more\]](#)

Related web site: [Equality Federation](#)

Advocacy

Coloradans for Fairness and Equality will continue to need your help. The petition drive for the Domestic Partnership constitutional amendment has ended, but the election is not over.

Find out how you can help:

- Go to their web site: www.fairequal.org.
- Stop in at the Fort Collins office, 212 South Mason.
- Give CFE a call at 970.372.1010.

- Send Chirs (the regional director) an email at cminter@co-fairequal.org.

Safe Schools

Hate speech and how it can be expressed within the walls of our classrooms became a focus area during August in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the 9th circuit. In a suburban San Diego school district, a student was kept out of class for refusing to remove a shirt displaying anti-gay language. In April a divided panel of the Ninth Circuit found that Poway Unified School District had not violated the First Amendment rights of student Tyler Chase Harper when it kicked him out of class for not removing the homemade T-shirt that said on the front "Be ashamed, our school embraced what God has condemned," and on the back "Homosexuality is shameful". Following the ruling the student's lawyers appealed for the full Ninth Circuit to review the case and the panel's ruling. In a brief order, the court said that a majority of its judges voted not to reconsider the case. [\[more\]](#)

The Reading/Viewing Corner

Quotable quotes

- "We are furious that the religious right has made Jesus into a Republican. That's idolatry. To recreate Jesus in your own image rather than allowing yourself to be created in Jesus' image is what's wrong with politics."—Rev. Tony Campolo, Evangelical leader, in "CBS News: Religion Taking A Left Turn?" July 10
- In response to a reader who complained that a gay couple was moving in across the street and wanted to know what he could do to improve the quality of the neighborhood. 'You could move.' ~ Dear Abby

Web sites of interest

- People for the American Way have developed a new web site that tracks what religious and political conservatives are saying and thinking. For more information, see RightWingWatch.com.

Reparative therapy

- American Psychological Association (APA) released a statement criticizing groups such as Focus on the Family for creating an "environment in which prejudice and discrimination can flourish" by erroneously labeling homosexuality an illness and advocating for so-called "conversion therapy." [\[Fusion MCC, Aug 16\]](#)

Domestic partnerships

- Michael Mills, an atmospheric scientist at CU tells personal stories of why Referendum I matters in his Colorado Voices column, "Legal rights for all couples" [\[Denver Post, Aug 30\]](#)
- Al Knight, a voice against domestic partnerships, argues that Referendum I lacks definition [\[Denver Post, Aug 29\]](#)

Support PFLAG Fort Collins / Northern Colorado—Become a Member

A membership in PFLAG extends a helping hand to families who have gay members, provides educational materials for families and the public, and offers a family voice that stands for equality and justice for all human beings. You can join at any time of the year. The current membership year extends from January 1, 2006, to December 31, 2006.

Name(s) of Member(s): _____	_____	Local Only	\$10
_____	_____	Regular Member	\$30
Address: _____	_____	Supporting Member—Silver	\$45
City: _____	_____	Supporting Member—Gold	\$75
State: _____ Zip Code: _____	_____	Supporting Member—Platinum	\$100
Home Phone: _____	_____	Donation	_____
Other Phone: _____	_____	Email list only (no membership)	
Email: _____			

Make checks payable to **PFLAG Fort Collins** and mail to 305 West Magnolia, PMB 117, Fort Collins, CO 80521. Membership fees and contributions are tax deductible. All information will remain confidential. PFLAG is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

MEETINGS:

2nd Monday each month, 6:45 pm
Plymouth Congregational Church
916 W. Prospect Rd.
Fort Collins, Colorado

CONTACTS:

Local chapter: 970.407.0300
Julie 970.667.5236
Bev 970.484.0031
Don 970.278.0261

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Web site: www.pflagftc.org
Email: info@pflagftc.org
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Fort Collins, CO 80521

In addition to parents, families, friends, and GLBT people, we welcome anyone involved in the coming-out process.
We welcome anyone who supports the PFLAG mission of **SUPPORT, EDUCATION and ADVOCACY** for GLBT people.