



PFLAG

Fort Collins / Northern Colorado

Next Meeting

Date: July 12, 7 PM Program, 8PM Support
Program: Meet Your Voters Candidate Forum

Our PFLAG Advocacy Chairperson has invited all of the candidates for county commissioner, state offices, and national representatives. Stan Matsunaka, former president of the Colorado Senate, will serve as Master of Ceremonies for the event. At least nine candidates have accepted our invitation to join us for a discussion.

PFLAG News

Transportation to PFLAG meetings

If you are interested in attending PFLAG meetings but need transportation, please call Craig Wilson at (970)667-5236 prior to the day of the meeting.

Events of Local/Regional Interest

Jul 19: One Colorado Fort Collins Townhall

One Colorado is hosting a townhall meeting in Fort Collins on July 19 at 7:00. The meeting will take place at Catalyst Café and Tap Room, 3501 South Shields, Fort Collins. At the meeting you will find out the results of the 2010 Needs Assessment of LGBT Coloradans. And you will have the opportunity to discuss next steps to advance a fair and just Colorado.

One Colorado is a newly formed, statewide organization dedicated to achieving and supporting full equality for all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) residents living in Colorado. One Colorado is comprised of three organizations:

- One Colorado, a 501(c)(4) that will lobby and conduct advocacy.
- One Colorado Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) that will provide research, public education and awareness.
- One Colorado PAC that will support fair-minded candidates and issues.

For more information, see <http://www.one-colorado.org/>. For more information, contact Sam Roecker, samr@one-colorado.org.

Aug 4: Larimer County Fair Parade, Loveland

Your participation is needed! Please plan to march with PFLAG in the Larimer County Fair parade. Thousands of people watch this parade, and it provides PFLAG with an outstanding opportunity to build awareness and acceptance of our organization and its mission in the community. We invite PFLAG members, allies from other organizations and supportive churches, and LGBT community members to help

us build a positive presence through a large turnout for the parade.

The parade kicks off at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, Aug 4. We will meet about 6:00 in the staging area at the parking lot north of the river on S.E. 3rd Street, south on Railroad Avenue. All walkers should park in the Barnes ball field lots and walk to the parking lot north of the river on Railroad Ave. Walking groups will mix into the parade at the river bridge. Last year, PFLAG mixed into the parade early, and we plan to do so again this year. Larimer County requires each participant sign a waiver form this year, so please allow time to complete the paperwork by arriving at 6:00.

News of Local/Regional Interest

Nun speaks about ministering to gay community

Sister Jeannine Gramick was ordered by the Vatican to stop ministering to gay and lesbian Catholics, but the outspoken nun didn't listen. "What God calls us to do is to be true to who we are," Gramick said. "We're never going to be happy unless we're true to who we are deep inside." The free program, organized by Boulder Pride, PFLAG Boulder County and Bent Lens Cinema, was a response to a controversial decision earlier this year by a Boulder Catholic school to no longer allow the children of a lesbian couple to attend the school.

[[Daily Camera](#), Jun 6]

News of National/Global Interest

Google will compensate same-sex couples' extra taxes

Google will compensate employees in same-sex partnerships who must pay federal taxes on the value of domestic-partner benefits offered by the company, addressing for the fact that married couples do not pay taxes on their partner's benefits. While many Fortune 500 companies provide same-sex partner benefits, compensation for the tax consequences is rare. Since the article is published by a conservative organization, it also covers reasons the new policy is unfair.

[[Fox News](#), July 1]

No equal protection for gays in Virginia!

Ken Cuccinelli, the attorney general of Virginia, told a group of high-school students that "the category of sexual orientation would never have been contemplated by the people who wrote and voted for and passed the 14th Amendment." Cuccinelli was responding to a question about his letter to the state's public universities advising against the inclusion of sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policies. [[NewsAdvance.com](#), Jun 25]

No shield for anti-gay petition signers

The U.S. Supreme Court said the names on a statewide petition in Washington that sought to overturn a gay-rights law

could be made public, dealing a blow to anti-gay groups that believe the move will chill political activity. Writing for the majority in an 8-1 decision, Chief Justice John Roberts argued, "Public disclosure ... promotes transparency and accountability in the electoral process to an extent other measures cannot." [[Seattle Pi](#), Jun 24]

FMLA change supports same-sex parents

The Labor Department expanded its interpretation of the Family and Medical Leave Act to include those parenting the children of same-sex partners, "because the realities of who is a "mother" and who is a "father"—and new, important and responsible concepts of "parenthood"—simply demand it ... at home and at work." [[Advocate](#), Jun 24]

Prenatal treatments to prevent lesbianism

An endocrinologist in Florida is trying to prevent lesbianism by treating pregnant women with an experimental hormone. Pediatric endocrinologist Maria New, of Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Florida International University, and her long-time collaborator, psychologist Heino F. L. Meyer-Bahlburg, of Columbia University, "anticipate that prenatal dexamethasone therapy will reduce the well-documented behavioral masculinization." [[The Stranger](#), Jun 30]

Christian Group Can't Bar Gays at College

An ideologically split Supreme Court ruled that a law school can legally deny recognition to a Christian student group that won't let gays join. The court turned away an appeal from the Christian Legal Society (CLS), which sued to get funding and recognition from the University of California's Hastings College of the Law. The court on a 5-4 judgment upheld the lower court rulings saying the Christian group's First Amendment rights of association, free speech and free exercise were not violated by the college's nondiscrimination policy. [[Huffington Post](#), Jun 28]

Mormon Church Pays Fine for Prop 8 Contributions

The Mormon Church has agreed to pay a fine of slightly more than \$5,000 for failing to report some campaign staff contributions it made in support of Proposition 8, the 2008 ballot measure that outlawed same-sex marriage. The Fair Political Practices Commission investigated the LDS church after a complaint was filed by Fred Karger, founder of the group Californians Against Hate. [[NY Times](#), Jun 9]

Advocacy

Not so safe schools ...

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
Diane 970.223.0041

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Mail: 305 W Magnolia, PMB 117
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Some students find that their school district doesn't do much to keep them safe. Greg Udulutch of Valders, Wisconsin, experienced taunts on campus and telephone death threats at home. Neither the school district nor the local sheriff took action to protect the student. [[HTRNews.com](#), Jun 20]

If students are faced with similar harassment locally, PFLAG recommends:

- 1) Check school district policy. Both Poudre School District and Thompson School District have nondiscrimination policies that include sexual orientation. By state definition, sexual orientation also includes gender identity. If an incident such as this occurred locally, the first step would be to obtain a copy of the policy and demand that the school follow it.
- 2) Under the Federal Hate Crimes Law (Mathew Shepard Act), if local law enforcement does not take action that the victim feels is appropriate, the victim (or their family) can contact the FBI and ask them to investigate.
- 3) Contact local LGBT-supportive organizations such as PFLAG and Lambda Community Center, so that we can offer Safe Schools training for the school district.
- 4) If all else fails, contact Lambda Legal or the ACLU.

Reading/Viewing Corner

- ❖ Remember Gil Caldwell, our speaker in January and a member of the national PFLAG Board of Directors? He recently returned to Selma, Alabama, and provided interesting reflections on civil rights then and now. [[more](#)]
- ❖ Ted Haggard sounds quite visionary in his recent Twitter comments. He predicts the end of the religious right and the start of what he calls the Love Reformation—where the Gospel will retake the Bible-believing church and judgment will return to a loving God (as opposed to churches). [[more](#)]
- ❖ A 62-year engagement finally ends with marriage for two gay men in Washington, D.C. [[more](#)]

Thank You PFLAG Sponsors



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If you would like to become a PFLAG sponsor, please contact Diane Kaufman at RCKaufman01@comcast.net or 223-0041 for more information.

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.