



P F L A G

PFLAG Cincinnati Quarterly Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear PFLAG Cincinnati Members and Friends,

Normally I am not at a loss for words – as many who know me well will agree (especially if they are spoken LOL!). However, as I write this, I am really having a difficult time putting my thoughts together. It must be the summer cold that I have been fighting or maybe it is the pace that my work and home life have been moving. As I try to organize my thoughts, several things have happened since the last time I wrote, some sad and much good.

Let's start with the sad. Since the last newsletter, the board accepted resignation of three long standing board members. They are two Members at Large positions, Tim Gross and Marti Kwiatkowski, and our Secretary Monica Plett. This makes a total of four people that have left the board during my tenure as co-president. We accepted Marie Jenkins' resignation earlier this year. She was also in a Member at Large position. You will find articles elsewhere in this newsletter that pay tribute to them and their contributions to PFLAG Cincinnati. These individuals were on our board for many years.

I can remember very clearly how it felt to be a newly elected board member – intimidated and overwhelmed. Everyone was instrumental in making me feel comfortable. Marie brought so much PFLAG history to the table, having been both on our board and also the Louisville Kentucky PFLAG board. As many of you know, Marti was past president of our chapter and is very well connected in the community. She also brought much chapter history with her. Tim just never said no. He was editor of our newsletter, managed mass mailings, took control of our library and also led the redesign of our chapter website and assumed webmaster responsibilities. I am still amazed that he was able to do everything AND hold down two jobs! Monica was chapter secretary. She was responsible for capturing and publishing meeting minutes for board meetings. In my 20+ years in various management positions with my past and current employers, I have never worked with someone that possessed such a finely tuned skill for documenting meetings. Each board member that resigned had

personal reasons for leaving. They were not related to the PFLAG Cincinnati board. This needs to be stated so rumors don't start that our board is in trouble – we are not. The only issue we were having is filling empty positions, although that issue has already been closed! At the last meeting I was bemoaning the fact that our board needed new staff and pleaded with meeting attendees to step forward to fill the open positions. I was thrilled when three people approached me at the break to say they would be willing to join the board. They are Debbi Johnson, Karen Weber and Susan Whitaker. Find their bios on page 7. My hope is that fears they have about serving on the board will be quickly put to rest. They will see that the board works well together and that remaining board members have a great deal of knowledge and skills that will continue to make this organization viable.

Welcome aboard

Some more good news, we awarded scholarships to seven deserving students at our June general meeting. You will find details about them on page 8

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PFLAG Cincinnati

Volume 25 Issue 3

Summer 2008

Special points of interest:

“Praying in Red, White and Blue” by Jane Biddinger

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Mission



Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, 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 secure civil rights.

Meetings

Our monthly chapter meetings are on the **second Tuesday of each month** from 7:00 – 9:30 P.M. at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church (link for directions http://www.mtauburnpresby.org/more_about_us.html) located at 103 William Howard Taft Rd, 45219. The monthly **chapter meeting is open to everyone**, including parents, friends and family of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons, as well as to gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons or anyone interested in learning more about the topic.

Meetings are completely confidential. What is said there stays there. Confidentiality is important to most of us for one reason or another, and at all time we respect the rights of others.

The chapter also has a monthly board meeting that is held on the Thursday before the monthly chapter meeting, starting at 6:30 P.M. at various locations. Paid up members of the chapter are welcome to attend the monthly board meeting.

Please send an email to info@pflagcinci.org or call the PFLAG Help Line at 513-721-7900 if you need more information about the monthly chapter meeting OR information about attending the chapter board meeting.

Newsletter

This newsletter is published quarterly (usually sometime in the first month of the quarter). The chapter would benefit greatly from your involvement in the creation of this newsletter. Send an

email to the editor at newsletter@pflagcinci.org if you have an announcement that should be included, an idea for an article, or even better, would be interested in writing an article.

Also, feel free to send an email to the editor if you have any suggestions or comments regarding your chapter's quarterly newsletter's content or design.

2007/2008 Officers & Chairpersons/Board Members

Executive Board

Co—President: Mark Smith & Lynne Lefebvre
president@pflagcinci.org
Vice President: Michael Cotrell
vicepresident@pflagcinci.org
Secretary: Debra Johnson
secretary@pflagcinci.org
Treasurer: Dorothy Byers
treasurer@pflagcinci.org
Members at Large
Tom Jenkins, Karen Weber, Suzanne Whitaker

Committee Chairs

Advocacy Chair: Lynne Lefebvre
Hotline: Lois Kay
Email Liaison: Tom Jenkins
Library: OPEN
Membership: Tom Jenkins
Newsletter: Michael Cotrell
newsletter@pflagcinci.org
Programs: OPEN
Refreshments: Tim & Carol Egbert
Speaker's Bureau: OPEN
Scholarship: Dan Ley
Scholarship@pflagcinci.org
Webmaster: Tom Jenkins
webmaster@pflagcinci.org

WHEN YOU NO LONGER NEED PFLAG. PFLAG NEEDS YOU!!

PFLAG Cincinnati Chapter Meetings

7:00-9:30 pm
Mt Auburn Presbyterian
Church, 103 W. H. Taft, 45219

August 12
September 9
October 14

November 11
December 9

PFLAG on the Road....

Every second Saturday of the month PFLAG is interviewed on 88.3 FM WAIF Radio. Check us out between 4:00-5:00pm.

MARIAN WEAGE

It is with pleasure I report that our irrepressible Marian Weage has been out and about in the community between theatrical engagements! Now that she has graduated we hope she will be seen on the PFLAG stage more frequently.

On **May 15th** she was invited to be on a panel by Rev. Dan Girese-Weyand at First Church, United Church of Christ in College Hill. Discussion followed the showing of the film "For the Bible Tells Me So." If you haven't seen it - do try to find it.

www.forthetbibletellsmes.org The write up says "the movie looks at the intersection between religion and homosexuality in the U.S.A. and how the Bible has been used against the gay community. Stories feature nine parents and four children plus insight from Jewish and Protestant theologians." About

50 people attended and the post film discussion was lively. The church

plans to hold more of these meetings.

On **June 26th** Marian spoke to a group of employees at Citicorp in Florence, Ky. She shared stories about her children and PFLAG. This was the first time Citicorp had ventured into GLBT territory. We know Marian educated and charmed them. Hopefully, they too will invite us back.

LYNNE LEFEVBRE

Back in May I participated in my first teleconference with the GLBT group at Fifth Third Bank by invitation of Edward Hayden. The participants asked great questions which allowed me to elaborate on our mission and history. I'm encouraged that more businesses in corporate America are not only allowing but encouraging groups such as these within their structures.

Ethicon-Endo Surgical (a part of Johnson and Johnson) of Blue Ash invited us to join them on June 24. This was the second time their group GLOBAL had put together and GLBT themed gathering. Whilst featuring their incredibly gifted group of employees who sang, read their own

poetry, told stories and displayed their art work, PFLAG, HRC, Equality Cincinnati and STOP AIDS had a table set up with literature. It was especially rewarding to hear Ryan Messer's comments regarding our participation in last year's event ... "the impact you had on the organization is simply amazing. You provided information to the attendees of our event and also served on a panel discussion. Your perspective brought more to the table than I as a gay person or our director of diversity could. You brought a "parents" viewpoint. And, most everyone there was a parent and you opened their eyes to a completely different viewpoint. Johnson and Johnson is a wonderful company to work for and I feel blessed by the culture that has been created in my workplace. However, we cannot forget the individuals within the company who come to the table with lots of biases, misunderstandings and lack of knowledge that events like we see during Pride help to address. Never underestimate the

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Letter from the President continued from page 1

I was just amazed at the applicants. These students have already accomplished so much both academically and in the community. We hear a great deal in the media about the "young generation" and fears about our country's future. Well, if these seven are any indication of where we are headed, I am going to sleep much better at night!

And finally we participated in Cincinnati Pride this year. We marched in the parade and staffed a booth at the festival. It has been many years since I have participated in the Cincinnati Pride weekend. Normally I am out of town for an annual trip

with friends. As luck would have it the dates lined up so that I could attend both. The crowd was huge for the parade, the festival was crowded and everyone had a great time. PFLAG appreciates the planning and coordination efforts that took place to make the weekend such a huge success. We thank the team that made it happen. It was a huge success and you should be proud.

Sincerley,
Mark Smith
Co-President Cincinnati PFLAG

Board Elections will be held in October. You must be a dues paying member in order to vote. To become a member, please fill out page 11 of the newsletter.

Praying in Red, White and Blue By Jane Biddinger

We've chalked up one more 4th of July, and these United States of ours have endured yet another year. What a day! Parades, flags waving in the breeze, marching bands. Picnics, fireworks, election year photo-ops. And this year we celebrated through the weekend. Our congregation sang *America the Beautiful* as we left Sunday Mass. I always choke up when we reach the words *and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea*. I love this country and can't imagine living anyplace else.

That said, I have a five-year old grandson Jacob. Jacob is extremely inquisitive and at his young age, extremely impressionable. And allowing for a smidge of bias, he is also very smart. Like any grandmother (outside of Ma Baker), my dream is for Jacob to grow, though not to rapidly, to be a good man. A patriotic man. A man who loves his country. A moral man. A man who loves his God. A family man. A man who realizes that families add stability to individuals, to communities, and to countries, and those families need not to be traditional in composition to be of value.

Though a daunting task in any time or any place, one would think instilling these ideas in a child should be somewhat easier in a country such as ours. A democracy designed to champion freedom, justice, and equality. Once instilled, one would think that given the countless church steeples dotting our landscape, these concepts would be readily reinforced.

But my son is gay. My son has a life partner. For me, these matters are more complex.

There are so many great things I want Jacob to learn about this nation of ours. Though young

in comparison to our European counterparts, we have one of the greatest countries yet known to mankind. Our Declaration of Independence decrees that all men are created equal, and that each of us is endowed by our Creator with unalienable rights such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We pledge our allegiance to a republic that under God, promises liberty and justice for all.

But how patriotic will Jacob feel when he learns that those seemingly explicit words are in reality open to interpretation and oftentimes deemed to be reserved for those of heterosexual orientation? Will his chest swell with pride when he finds out that if his uncle is hospitalized, his life partner can make no medical decisions? The same decisions righted to heterosexuals without question. How will Jacob feel the call to protect his country, if his uncle and others born like him are denied that opportunity?

I want Jacob to learn about our Constitution penned centuries ago with words so true, so noble, and so timeless. *We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.* This document is not merely lyrical prose. It's a pledge, a promise, and a solemn vow. Nor is it a stagnant document. Embedded in it are the obligation, the duty, and the means to correct inequities of the past in order to ensure equal opportunity for every citizen of our United States.

The need to move beyond the status quo of our forefathers

is clear and absolute in the cases of the Thirteenth and Nineteenth Amendments. The first eliminated the centuries-old travesty of slavery on December 6, 1865. The second, at long last gave women the right to vote on August 18, 1920.

In our glorious past, we've used amendments to extend the Constitution's promises to those previously denied them. But what will Jacob think when he learns there is a movement afoot to amend our constitution to deny rights to his uncle, claiming to defend marriage? Defend marriage from whom? His uncles who share a home, not a mere house, but a real home? His uncles who hide Easter eggs? His uncles who host family cookouts? His uncles who took him to see *Cars*? His uncles who bring him Christmas gifts? His uncle who is his sister's godfather? While many claim our electoral process is flawed and needs repair, I want Jacob to be awed by his right to have a say in who governs our people. I want him to recognize his right to vote as the sacred privilege and duty that it is. I want the first Tuesday in November to be a holy day for him. I want him to be well versed in the promises of the candidates and the platforms on which they run. But how disillusioned will he be when he realizes that many politicians garner votes by promising to make gay persons like his uncles second-class citizens?

And then on the much broader and eternal front, there's God. The Creator. The Supreme Being. The Higher Power. Call Him what you want; He answers to any or all of them. Jacob knows that God made him. He knows that God made the world including the trees, the birds, the flowers, the sea, and his dog Jackson. Continued on page 6

TRIBUTES

Marti Kwiatkowski-Tim Gross-Marie Jenkins-Monica Plett

Marti Kwiatkowski is known to all as the dedicated, warm-hearted president of PFLAG who led us to new thoughts and riches as we fulfilled our PFLAG mission. After stepping down as president in 2005, Marti thankfully remained on the Board these past three years, enriching our meetings with programs that stretched and challenged us, and helping with outreach presentations. Even though family needs called Marti away, there was a comfort in knowing she was out there for us. Marti has a new calling now, in addition to family. She plans to devote time to documenting her experiences teaching ABLE classes at the Hamilton County Justice Center. We are convinced that her efforts at the jail have been as fruitful as her efforts for PFLAG, with her warm personality making a difference in those with whom she worked. Hers will be a story worth telling. We are sad to see Marti leave the PFLAG Board, but are also eager to see the results of her new labors. Thank you Marti for all you've done for PFLAG and best wishes in your new adventure!

Tim Gross

Bon Voyage Tim et Merci!

What do you say about someone who gives their all to an organization? Tim Gross and his partner John Whatley packed up all their worldly possessions in late June and hiked across dear old Kansas to begin a new life in Colorado. I know they will be delighted by the land of mountains and low humidity. We, however, will miss them greatly. Tim came to PFLAG around the fall of 2000. Since then he has thoroughly cared for this organization by doing many jobs - mailing and newsletter coordinator, organizing and running the library (a temporary job that never seemed to end), banquet committee member, scholarship committee and redesigning the web page. These were the official jobs - then there was the miscellaneous work - getting John to write a food article for the newsletter each month, picking up the mail, shopping for supplies (Tim always knew where to get a good deal!) etc. I don't recall ever hearing Tim say "no." One of the joys

of this group is that it expands your family. Tim became like my son. And I am forever blessed by this relationship. He drove me places when he knew I would get lost, he and John baked me a cake for Mother's Day when my son Ross was so far away. These are the acts of a caring, industrious soul that PFLAG had the privilege to know. We now wish he and John all the success and happiness in the magisterial landscape of Colorado but I did tell him, he can come back any time!!! ***There's always room at the Inn.***

Marie Jenkins

Organizations like PFLAG blossom or collapse because of the dedication of our volunteers. Today I would like to say an immense thank you to one of our very best, Marie Jenkins who recently resigned from the board. Before residing in Cincinnati she and Tom lived in Louisville where she was the cofounder of a much needed chapter. She saw the necessity and went to work. They have both been intensely devoted to assisting all those in need. Marie has served as a regional director covering seven states, including Ohio and served on the national board from 1990-1993. In Cincinnati, she has been the board's secretary, managed the hot line, handled the speakers bureau and helped keep track of our literature table and events. Marie was critical in the review of our by-laws. It was a particularly tedious, time consuming job but Marie stuck with it and the board was relieved and grateful to her for bringing us up-to-date. Her eye for detail and observations have been critical in keeping us on the right track and educated. She and Tom have made themselves endlessly available to requests for speaking engagements, marching in the Pride Parade, manning booths at various events and doing radio interviews on W.A.I.F. At each monthly meeting Marie will always have her eye turned to the door for new members. Immediately, she will welcome them and introduce herself, making them comfortable right away. I remember my first meeting and how encouraged I was to meet her - smiling and proudly sharing

their story of their daughter Anne. Today they look forward to the wedding ceremony of Anne and her partner in San Francisco in the fall. Mighty are the changes over the last 22 years since learning about Anne's sexuality. Recently, Anne presided at her friends' wedding in California. We all have so much to celebrate but none of this would have been possible without the persistence and love of volunteers like Marie Jenkins. Thank you for everything Marie.

Monica Plett

As I said in the President's letter, Monica possesses skills that are rare and will be hard to replace. I feel it is crucial that we have someone that captures the minutes to our board meetings. As the board knows, I am an advocate for running meetings that follow a set of meeting management processes. One of those processes is utilizing a secretary to capture minutes. When I took over co-leadership of the organization, Monica and I had a brief discussion about my philosophy for documenting meetings and the importance of her role in this process. I was instantly aware of the gem that we had on the board. Monica can keep up with my ramblings, capture the appropriate level of detail, acknowledge to-do items, and report on decisions made and open issues that need to be addressed. She was very organized and was not shy about saying "wait a minute I don't think I got that right" or "you just contradicted what we said earlier". The board has frequently gone back to prior meeting minutes for answers to questions. Thanks to Monica's excellent job as chapter secretary, we always were able to quickly find the facts we needed. Monica - thanks for all your hard work and dedication to the chapter!

PFLAG on the Road continued from page 3

power you have on impacting and making the world a better place."

On **June 25th**, we found ourselves in the hallowed halls of the federal justice system. Judge Timothy Black kindly invited us to address the United States Court Diversity Committee. Along with my husband and constant supporter Kent Lefebvre, my buddy in crime Marti Kwiakowski and the always articulate Doug Meredith, we addressed a room full of judges, lawyers and other courthouse employees. I have to confess to being a little nervous - the air was dense with au-

thority and brilliance! Still, as usual, we launched ourselves into explaining what PFLAG was about and telling our personal stories. At the end we left time for questions and answers. Asked to comment on our participation, Judge Black said " ... all the presentations were great and the comments we received were all positive. The honesty of the presentations stood out and challenged the audience to think hard about our own honesty when it comes to living our mission to promote justice." It was also one of their best attended sessions. You can't ask for more than that folks.

PFLAG had a table at UC during their Breaking the Silence event on **April 25**. Linda Arnest, Donnie McGovern, and June Delph volunteered to pass out literature and talk to students who happened by. The table was located in the Women's Center at UC, home for the LGBTQ Center there. Interesting stories were exchanged, and students found warm support.

Praying in Red, White and Blue continued from page 4

He may question why, but he knows that God made his little sister. He knows that God loves him. He knows that God loves everyone in the world. He knows that God wants him to be good. He knows that God wants him to be good and kind to all people, and yes, even his sister. Though Jacob is not yet theologically well versed, he knows the basics. This is one time when less truly is more.

How will Jacob envision God when he learns that within the supposedly hallowed walls of some churches, pastors call his uncle an abomination? That ministers who profess to know God's will, picket the funerals of soldiers claiming their death is in some way tied to his uncle's sexual orientation? That renowned evangelists declare the September 11, 2001 attacks on our country a punishment for tolerating his uncles' loving relationship? That focusing on the family means not the entire family, but only on those who are heterosexual because all others are lost souls? That while the Bible clearly states we are to love one another, some consider it godly to assail our brothers and sisters with words such as *fag* and *queer*? Or even take it a step further with fists and baseball bats? That while we have separation between church and state in this country, there is no separation

of church, state, money, and political influence?

There are those who would say that if I have a problem with this country, I am free to move to another. America—love it or leave it. There are some who would say I couldn't truly love this country if I point out its flaws. I beg to differ. When I love someone, whether it is my spouse, child, or friend, I do accept that person, imperfections and all. No doubt about it. But I don't want them to be forever the same. I want them to grow, to change, and to reach their ultimate potential. If I truly love my husband, I don't want him to be 21 forever. After 40 years of marriage, my husband's not the same person as he was when we married. That's a good thing. I have three children. If I truly love them, I want them to flourish in their careers and relationships. I rejoice that they're independent and self-sufficient. Heaven knows I don't want them to be toddlers forever. If I truly love my friends, I want them to grow wiser as we grow older. I want them to live in the here and the now, leaving the worries of yesterday behind.

It's the same with my country. I love America. As I noted earlier, there is so much good in this country, so much to love. I give thanks that

America is my home, flaws and all. I want no less for my country than I do for my family and friends. I want this country to prosper and to flourish, and its citizens along with it. Because I love these United States, I want Lady Liberty's torch to continue to be the beacon of hope and liberty for huddled masses longing to be free who live beyond our boundaries, while not losing sight of the ones who live within. I want this union of ours to be steady and stable, but not mired in the narrow-mindedness of the past. I want this country to be blessed by God, but not ruled by any one established religion.

I pray that God bless the efforts of the PFLAG chapters throughout our country. I pray that one day soon Jacob will sing at the top of his lungs, with no *ifs*, *ands*, or *buts*, **God Bless the USA!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Coming Soon!! We will be hosting a fundraiser for PFLAG. While not all the details are final, we do know that the event promises to be a fun-filled event. This will be a time to bring new people to see what PFLAG is all about and to see how you can help us further our education to the community! More news to follow!

Our Newest Family Members

Debra Johnson lives in Loveland, OH with her partner of 2 years Tammie Huber. Debra is new to the state of Ohio via Southern California and is very excited to have this opportunity. Debra is a pre-op transsexual woman and has been living full time for the past 3 years and has been determined to make or get changes made for all GLBT people. Debra's past life was very trying. She competed in non-main sports such as surfing, skateboarding, BMX and other x games type sports. She raced

motorcross/supercross and freestyle motorcross professionally for 20+ years. She has 4 children of which 2 are very supportive of her and her partner. She has lost her son in this change but hopes that will change and has lost her daughter to her ex-but speaks to her nightly.

Debra is on the HRC Diversity Steering sub committee in Cincinnati. She is currently the treasurer for Crossport in Cincinnati. She is new to activism and is determined to educate

the public to all GLBT issues. We must educate not Fight.

Karen Weber and her husband Larry began attending PFLAG meetings around 4 years ago, when their only son Alex began his first gay relationship as a junior in college Alex let them know he was having feelings at age 17 but was not committed to being gay until the relationship.

Finish reading about our newest members on Page 8

Cooking without John

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW OUR CHEF LEFT TOWN TO GO HANG OUT IN DENVER. WE DIDN'T WANT TO QUIT RUNNING HIS FAMOUS RECIPES SO HE LEFT US WITH A QUICK RECIPE TO GET US THROUGH TILL NEXT TIME.

DRUM ROLL PLEASE....

PLEASE GO TO YOUR NEAREST HIGHWAY AND START DRIVING. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT IS NORTH, SOUTH, EAST OR WEST.. JUST DRIVE... REMEMBER THE SPEED LIMIT!

AS YOU DRIVE LOOK TO YOUR RIGHT AND TO YOUR LEFT. YOU WILL SEE MANY FAMILIAR THINGS BUT THERE IS A GOAL HERE, SO DON'T LOSE SIGHT OF IT. YOU WILL SEE A BUILDING

WITH A LARGE LOOKING YELLOW "M" ON IT-THAT IS THE GOAL. PULL INTO THE GOLDEN ARCHES, ORDER A BIG MAC, LARGE FRY AND A COKE AND YOUR DINNER IS READY!

THANKS JOHN AND WE MISS YOU!

Our Newest Family Members Continued....

PFLAG was there for them as they sorted through all the fears and emotions they encountered. A Cincinnati native, raised in Westwood, Karen has been serving the Greater Cincinnati market in residential real estate for 20 years. She has been the manager of the Montgomery Star One Realtors office for the 2 years where she oversees 30 agents. She has been married for 29 years and enjoys gardening, decorating and yoga and has just taken up golf. She resides with her husband Larry in Pierce Township, on

the edge of Anderson for the past quarter century. Karen says, "I have lived half my life on the west side of town and half on the east side of town. You can not hurt my feelings- everything they say about both sides is true."

Suzanne Whitaker is the mother of 2 children: Sarah (28) and David (16) and a wonderful life partner Tom. She is the co-owner of "Your Best Friend Pet Salon" which is a dog and cat grooming service. Her passions include animals, music, and the arts

of any sort. She is proud to be a member of PFLAG as it has encouraged her to find peace and understanding in her life.

Interested in serving on the board? Contact Co-president Lynne Lefebvre or Vice President Michael Cotrell.

PFLAG Awards Scholarships!!

On Tuesday, June 10 at the PFLAG monthly meeting, seven deserving students received \$2,000 scholarships for their college or graduate education. This is the sixteenth year that PFLAG has awarded scholarships. This year's recipients were Samuel Clemons, Lee Espinoza, Barry Floore, Victoria Jones, Devin Rodgers, JAC Stringer, and Matthew Stuckey. The 2008 Scholarship Committee, chaired by Dan Ley,

The collective accomplishments of these students impressed all present and elicited enthusiastic praise. The continued work by students such as these will indeed make the world a better place. Funds for the PFLAG scholarships came from the ISQCCBE (The Court), Paul Delph Scholarship Fund, Cincinnati Men's Chorus, Toyota Corporation, and the generosity of many other donors and members. PFLAG thanks these

Lee Espinoza graduated from Lakota East High School and will attend Eastern Kentucky University in the fall. He has been involved in music programs, including his school's marching band and Greater Miami Youth Symphony. Lee has also been involved in his school's Gay-Straight

selected the winning students. The Committee based its selections on the applicants' academic record, activities, future plans, and references. Special emphasis was placed on students who help to fulfill the PFLAG missions of providing support, education and advocacy in the community. Committee members Tim Gross, Marti Kwiatkowski, Vanessa Melendez, and Mark Smith highlighted the accomplishments of

organizations and individuals for their contributions and looks forward to continuing success in supporting deserving students. Here is a brief introduction to the recipients: **Samuel Clemons** attends the University of Cincinnati Clermont College pursuing a degree in Business Information Technology. He has been on the Board of Directors for local organizations such as AIDS Volunteers of Northern Kentucky

Alliance, attended the GLBTQ Youth Summit, and gone out of his way to encourage others to better understand and value differences among people. Lee has overcome disabilities and difficulties in school; he works hard to be a role model that advocates and promotes diversity. **Barry Floore**

the recipients. The scholarship winners demonstrated a wide range of accomplishments in support of the GLBT community, including taking on leadership roles in local high school and college alliances, increasing HIV/AIDS awareness and education raising money for charitable organizations, and providing advocacy, education, and support for GLBTQ individuals and issues.

(AVNK) and Caracole. He is involved with the Cincinnati Men's Chorus, Imperial Sovereign Queen City Court of the Buckeye Empire (ISQCCBE), and has served as a programmer on Alternating Currents on WAIF. Samuel has raised thousands of dollars over the years for local charity organizations and been a supportive and active member of the community.

will attend Christ College of Nursing and Health Sciences to continue his work with HIV/AIDS. While attending Miami University, he was actively involved in Spectrum, the school's GLBTQ organization and helped start a charity drag show that **Scholarship information continued on page 9**

PFLAG Awards Scholarships continued from page 8

has grown over the past several years. He is a Residential Assistant at Caracole House and a HIV Tester for the UC Early Intervention Program. Barry was also a GLBT Educator for STOP AIDS, formerly AIDS Volunteers of Cincinnati (AVOC) providing education and outreach services into the community. **Victoria Jones** graduated from Ludlow High School and plans to attend Columbia University in the fall with

a double major in Aerospace and Chemical Engineering. While in high school, Victoria was president of the National Honor Society, President and Founder of the Math Club, and involved in a variety of other school activities and athletics. She has been an active volunteer with the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, taking on responsibilities with the Pride Festival, Pride Night at King's Is-

land, and Cincinnati Youth Group. **Devin Rodgers** attends Miami University and is majoring in Music Education; he plans to teach elementary general music and one day become a pastor. He is Co-President of Spectrum, the school's GLBTQ student organization, and worked hard to create awareness on campus. He has taken leadership roles in planning the school's National

Coming Out Day project collaborating with other student groups to create a newspaper advertisement and being featured in a school newspaper article on GLBT issues. Devin hard work and dedication demonstrate his commitment to social justice and equality. **JAC Stringer** will attend the University of Cincinnati to begin graduate coursework in sexuality and gender identity studies, focusing primarily on research in the transgender/genderqueer community. While an undergraduate at UC, he founded GenderBloc, a queer activist group, and was also actively involved

with Student Government Association and the Women's Center. JAC helped the Women's Center develop queer-inclusive presentations and literature for their Sexual Health Education Program. He has also developed presentations and been a guest lecture for many UC courses. **Matthew Stuckey** is a Political Science major at the University of Cincinnati. He is a member of organizations such as the UC Democrats, LGBTQ Alliance and Equality UC. He has been very active in many campus activities and political campaigns. He has been very active in many campus activities and political campaigns. Matthew

also serves as a Peer Leader in the Learning Community program and uses this opportunity to discuss issues of inequality for minority groups, including the GLBT community. Through his political work and personal interactions, Matthew educates and advocates for GBLT equality.

Congratulation to all of our Scholarship winners. To Find out more on the PFLAG Scholarship, please visit our website.

EQUALITY NORTHERN KENTUCKY

We would like to introduce you to **Equality Northern Kentucky** (ENKY), a new organization formed to advance equality for Northern Kentucky gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people through education, visibility, advocacy, and community organizing.

We will collaborate with local and statewide GLBT organizations and will support legislative advocacy. However, our first priority will be to raise the level of activism and visibility in the local region. Equality Northern Kentucky will hold an open forum at the Covington Branch of the Kenton County Library on Monday, October 6 at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to express your concerns and hopes regarding the state of GLBT rights in Northern Kentucky. With great hope we look forward to a culture of equality in Northern Kentucky where GLBT people are valued, respected, and proud. Mark your calendars, and help us plan so that our vision can be realized!

Yours in Fairness,

ENKY Steering Committee:
Equality Northern Kentucky

P.O. Box 121037

Covington, KY 41012

859-814-1975

info@equalitynky.org

www.equalitynky.org coming soon...

General Chapter Information & Resources

Advocacy: Understanding and participating in advocacy for GLBT concerns at a local, state, national and international level is addressed by our Advocacy committee. If you have anything concerning awareness or participation in advocacy for GLBT concerns please contact our Advocacy chairperson at info@pflagcinci.org

Hotline/Email: Throughout this section and the entire newsletter you will see references to the hotline and various email addresses. If you ever get confused about whom to contact, you can just use the chapter Hotline or general email address. The chapter hotline can be reached via 513-721-7900. The general email address for the chapter is info@pflagcinci.org. Feel free to use these as your single point of contact for anything related to the chapter. Just keep in mind that depending on your request, the operator/email monitor may need to contact someone else in order to properly address your questions/comments.

Library: Your chapter has a mobile library that is open for business at every monthly meeting. The library is an excellent resource that contains many great books and videos that address topics such as homosexuality, homosexuality and religion, coming out and GLBT issues for children and families. You are welcome to borrow any of the books or videos.

Membership: PFLAG Cincinnati values your support and interest in the chapter. Your membership supports the activities of chapter which include purchasing publications for distribution at meetings and events where we are represented, books for the library, dues to National PFLAG and the printing and mailing of this newsletter. The scholarship program is funded primarily through our fund raising events and donations. If you have paid membership dues in the past, the expiration date of your membership appears on the mailing label on this newsletter. If it is time to renew your membership, please use the form included in this issue.

Programs: Periodically throughout the year at the monthly meetings, a guest speaker will be included in the agenda. In the past we have had religious leaders, doctors, lawyers, financial advisors and GLBT non profit health and support leaders as guest speakers. If you have an idea or would be interested in being a guest speaker send an email to info@pflagcinci.org.

Scholarship: Each year your chapter funds its own scholarship program. The scholarships are awarded annually to deserving members of the community attending local universities. More information can be found at the chapter website, www.pflagcinci.org in the Scholarship Info section or by sending an email to info@pflagcinci.org. If you are interested in donating to the scholarship fund, send a check to P.O. Box 19634, Cincinnati Ohio 45219-0634 made out to PFLAG Cincinnati, noting in the memo that the check is for the scholarship fund; PFLAG Cincinnati is a non-profit organization with a 501(C) 3 status. Your contribution may be tax deductible – seek advice from your tax preparer.

Speakers: If you ever need anyone to speak to a group, organization, business, school or church, your chapter has experienced members that have volunteered to speak on behalf of the chapter. Send an email to info@pflagcinci.org to make a request OR if you would like to volunteer to be on the speakers bureau.

Website: The chapter has an excellent website (www.pflagcinci.org). There is up to date information about the chapter including things like monthly meetings, information about events and volunteer opportunities. If you have any feedback on the website send an email to webmaster@pflagcinci.org

General Membership Application

Membership Application & Address Change Form



Request Type

- New
- Renewal
- Change of Address

Membership Category

- Individual \$25
- Household \$35
- Supporting \$50
- Contributing \$100
- Sponsoring \$500
- Lifetime \$1000
- Other \$ _____

Name

Address

City, State, ZIP

Email Address

Phone

- Send all mailing blind (will have no references to the organization name on the envelope)
- Please contact me for Volunteer Opportunities
- I do not wish to receive email announcements

Send completed form to:
PFLAG Cincinnati
P.O. Box 19634
Cincinnati Ohio 45219-0634

PO BOX 19634
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-0634

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
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Cincinnati, OH
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