

Celebrating
28+ years in the
Cincinnati Community

Quarterly
Newsletter

Parents,
Families,
and Friends
of Lesbians
and Gays

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PFLAG CINCINNATI

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2013

Letter from the President

So much has been going on with PFLAG Cincinnati! The most important thing is that we awarded 5 scholarships this year. We are so happy that we can give away scholarships to deserving students each year and without your help it would not be possible. We at PFLAG Thank YOU for your donations to help send our kids to higher education!

We celebrated Pride with a bang this year. Cincinnati Pride marked 40 years of history and 2 of the Grand Marshalls this year were Lynne Lefevbre and myself alongside former scholarship recipient City Councilman Chris Seelbach. We had a great time cele-

brating as DOMA and Prop 8 were removed – we are getting closer to Equality!

We have some great speakers coming up : September Avery Sledge will be here to speak on transgender issues, faith and spirituality and in October Michelle Hobbs will be speaking on family issues and the law. We here at PFLAG try to make sure we are bringing in speakers and programs that are informational and thought provoking.

October brings about some changes – sort of! In October we will elect new board members (or keep those who we already have in possession). We are looking for anyone who is interested in being a part of our board or on one of our committees. If you are interested please contact

Michael at
president
@pflagcinci.org.

October 13 we are hosting a fundraiser to boost our scholarship program! As many of you know we rely on the support of the community to help us help our future leaders. “Come to the Movies” will feature all your favorites – we have popcorn, candy, nachos/cheese and hot dogs! We will feature drag queens – movie trivia and TONS of FUN!! We will have raffle items and 1 or 2 silent auction items for you! We already have a cane chair donated for our silent auction – Thanks Bob!! The doors will open at 6pm and the show will start at 7pm so make sure you SAVE THE DATE!!

So until next month –
Michael – President



Mission Statement

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.

2012/2013 Executive Board

President: Michael Cotrell
president@pflagcinci.org

Vice President: Lauren Grosser
vicepresident@pflagcinci.org

Secretary: Monica Plett

Treasurer: Brent Rose
treasurer@pflagcinci.org

Members at Large
Tom Jenkins, Connie Hopkins, & Brandie Gross

Meeting

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/location.shtml>) 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 103 William Howard Taft Rd, 45219. 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 and ask for the PFLAG contact number if you need more information about the monthly chapter meeting or information about attending the chapter board meeting.

Committee Chairs

Advocacy Chair:
Lynne Lefebvre

Hotline:
Marie Jenkins

Email Liaison/Webmaster:
Tom Jenkins

Library:
Connie Hopkins

Membership:
Tom Jenkins

Newsletter:
Tim Gross
newsletter@pflagcinci.org

Programs:
OPEN

Refreshments:
Lauren Grosser

Speaker's Bureau:
Lynne Lefebvre
Tom Jenkins

Scholarship:
Dan Ley
scholarship@pflagcinci.org

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.



2013 Scholarship Winners!

By Dan Ley

On Tuesday, June 11 at the PFLAG monthly meeting, five deserving students received \$1,400 scholarships for their college education. This is the twenty-first year that PFLAG has awarded scholarships. This year's recipients were Tyler Bridge, Maverick Couch, Richard Dennis, Abigail Lower, and Rachel Price.

The 2013 Scholarship Committee, chaired by Dan Ley, 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 highlighted the accomplishments of the recipients; the committee included Margaret Adriatico, Jaime McCauley, and Brent Rose.

The scholarship winners demonstrated a wide range of accomplishments in support of the GLBT community, such as starting their school's Gay-Straight Alliance, speaking on various LGBT panels, and drawing national media attention. The accomplishments of these students impressed everyone in attendance and elicited enthusiastic praise. The continued work by students such as these will certainly make the world a bet-

ter place.

Funds for the PFLAG scholarships came from the ISQCCBE (The Court), Paul Delph Scholarship Fund, and the generosity of many other donors and members. PFLAG thanks these organizations and individuals for their contributions and looks forward to continuing success in supporting deserving students.

Here is a brief introduction to the recipients:

Tyler Bridge graduated from Ross High School and plans to attend Georgetown University. He plans to major in Government, Politics and Policy to prepare for a career in public service. Tyler served as student body/class president and represented his school at Buckeye Boys State, as well as participating in numerous other school activities and organizations. He also interned at the Department of Economic Development for the City of Hamilton and spent time in Columbus with a State Senator. Tyler is dedicated and ambitious, and we know he will achieve great things as he works to advance the rights of all people.

Maverick Couch graduated from Waynesville High School and plans to attend Wright State University in the fall. He has been involved in school activities

such as theater and Spanish club. After his first amendment rights were violated at school for wearing a shirt that said, "Jesus is not a homophobe", Maverick contacted Lambda Legal for advice. The following lawsuit and media coverage surrounding Maverick raised national awareness for LGBT issues and bullying in schools. He has shared his story at numerous events throughout the country. Maverick's ability to stand up for what is right is true testament of his character and desire to make the world a better place.

Richard Dennis graduated from Walnut Hills High School and plans to attend Kenyon College in the fall. He plans to major in Biology and continue his studies to become a doctor. Richard is an active member of the GLSEN Greater Cincinnati Youth Group. He also helped to re-start the Gay-Straight-Trans* Alliance (GST*A) at his school and served as co-chair of the organization. Richard has also volunteered and worked at Museum Center's Natural History and Science Museum where he has co-facilitated demonstrations, been on an archeological dig, and led tours of the museum. Richard's initiative and personality will serve him well as a leader for the LGBT community.

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2013 Scholarship Winners

Continued

Abigail Lower is an Early Childhood Education major at Miami University. She plans to be an elementary school teacher and possibly become a principal or superintendent. Abigail had served as president of the Gay-Straight alliance at University of Akron – Wayne College and is currently a member of SPECTRUM (the GLBT organization at Miami). Abigail is an active member of the Education Committee where she participates in panels for safe space trainings and classes. She is also

involved in various campus organizations that make a difference on campus and in the world. Abigail's commitment to education is truly an asset in making positive changes in the world.

Rachel Price is a graduate of Oak Hills High School and plans to attend Miami University in the fall. She plans to major in Math Education and become a middle school or high school math teacher. Rachel participated in soft-

ball, cross country, and other organizations in high school. She also co-founded and led the first Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) at her high school. In this capacity, Rachel led many educational and emotional meetings and helped to implement safe space training for over 25 faculty and staff. Rachel's commitment and determination are great assets; they will serve her well as she continues to be an active supporter of the LGBT community.



From the left—Maverick Couch, Richard Dennis, Tyler Bridge, Rachel Price.

Not shown: Abigail Lower.



Cause for Celebration

By Jane Biddinger

In just a few days, we're off to Boston, my husband and I. Off to visit our son and his spouse. We haven't seen these two since Christmas, and a mother needs to check her offspring out in person. Phone calls, texts, and Facebook just don't cut it. The only *face time* that satisfies this mom, is flesh to flesh, not monitor to monitor.

In my book, getting out of town in itself is cause for whooping and hollering. Spending time with Greg and Mike is the sweetest of frostings on the celebratory cake. Free room and board in a wonderful city, it goes without saying, is a priceless perk as well.

I can't help but recall making this same trip thirteen months ago. The mood was beyond festive. It was downright jubilant. Why wouldn't it be? A wedding was in the offing and we were parents of one of the grooms. To rephrase the age old adage, we weren't losing a son, we were gaining a son. A man who had been an integral part of the family for so many years, considering him a son was no new con-

cept for us.

The wedding was perfect. The grooms handsome. The ceremony divine. The tears joyful. The grandkids decked out in their finest. Flowers strewn without incident. The ring delivered intact.

Though it flirted with disaster when our grandson slipped on the steps and avoided doing a header into the wedding cupcake display by inches, the reception was flawless.

In the midst of all this joy and celebration, one nagging thought that I had fooled myself into believing I'd banished to the netherworlds of my shortening short-term memory burrowed its way to the forefront.

Would this marriage last?

I've been to a wedding or two where I've wondered this very thing. One in particular where guests placed bets on the length of the marriage as the bride and groom cut the cake. In those cases, the couples were mismatched, not familiar with the concept of fidelity, or possessed an aversion to commitment.

In my sons' case,

none of those issues were of concern. This was a tried and true relationship. The odds were overwhelmingly in their favor, and I'd wager my life on this union. There was no question as to the couple's devotion, or compatibility. Time had tested them and they had passed with flying colors.

This wedding would have taken place years earlier, but for their place of residence. Ohio. Our home state doesn't recognize love and commitment between people of the same gender. Ohio would however, without hesitation, grant a marriage license to any heterosexual couple just seconds after making one another's acquaintance in the courthouse hallway. But Ohio will not do the same for these two who have spent ten years of their lives loving, cherishing, and honoring one another.

But Massachusetts does.

One job transfer, one new job, one sold house, one new house, one 700+ mile trip with two dogs was all it took. Marriage was within their grasp.

Continued next page



Cause for Celebration

continued

Any one of these events is considered a major life event and can strain a relationship. Bundling them is not advised. But survive them, they did.

It was not the amount of stress and changes that caused me to wonder if their marriage would last. It was DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act). Defending marriage from the Kardashian clan I could understand, but from my son and his intended seems ludicrous.

As I watched my sons pledge themselves to one another, I feared the law would trump love. Not only their love, but the love of all those couples whose weddings made news in state after state as social conscience overrode societal fears and misconceptions. At long last justice and personal rights had overcome religious and personal prejudices in these places.

The older couples in particular touched me. Having spent year after year in unwedded bliss, their love and devotion were now affirmed. As they slipped the rings on one another's finger, I praised their courage; their tenacity; their undying faith.

As June rolled round, I fretted and stewed awaiting the Supreme Court's decision. I'm certain countless couples, parents, family, and friends did as well. Those pins and needles grew less comfortable each day. On Mondays, the day the Court announces its rulings, they were they were torturous.

Finally came June 26, 2013. The last Monday of the Court's session. The verdict came down. DOMA was ruled unconstitutional. I joined PFLAG and millions of supporters in a sigh of relief. Another step on the road to equality.

As expected, the rejoicing was not universal. Once again those believing themselves to be the guardians and exclusive proprietors of marriage and those claiming to have sole access to the blessings of God Almighty rattled their sabers. The onslaught of rhetoric began anew.

The Court also decreed that individual states have the right to determine the legality and recognition of same sex marriage. They are our next battlegrounds. Public opinion is changing. It's only a matter of time.

Overtaking DOMA is a great feat, but the struggle is not over. When we get to Boston, we'll toast the DOMA victory with our sons, but we'll save the best of the bubbly until Ohio is ours.



What's Happening in the Community

Come to the Movies

October 13, 2013

*This will be a fund raiser for our Scholarship Program.
There will be raffle, a silent auction, popcorn, nachos and cheese, hot dogs,
Movie Trivia and of course drag queens.
The Cabaret, 1122 Walnut Street
Doors will open at 6pm and the show will start at 7pm*

Pride Night at Kings Island

September 6, 2013

Check out the GLBT Center for more information

The StopAIDS Walk will be held this fall. Watch for an e-mail or our Facebook page for more information.

PRISM Youth Butler County

The group meets every Tuesday at 7 pm in Hamilton.

See <http://www.facebook.com/PrismYouthButlerCounty> for details.

Cincinnati Youth Group

meets every Sunday

103 William Howard Taft

3:00—5:30 pm.

Open to all youth age kids.

Check out glsencincinnati.org for more information.

Like us on Facebook @ PFLAG Cincinnati or
check us out on the web @ www.pflagcinci.org



PFLAG Cincinnati 2012-13 Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

P.O. Box 19634
Cincinnati OH 45219-0634.

Membership Category

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual | \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Household | \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Supporting | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Contributing | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Sponsoring | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Lifetime | \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other | \$_____ |

**“Remember,
when you no
longer need
PFLAG,
PFLAG needs
you”**

Memberships run from October 1 to September 30.

Newsletters are sent by email. If you wish to receive a paper copy, check this box .Mail membership application & dues to
PFLAG Cincinnati

Cooking with John

Mojito-Marinated Chicken Breasts

3/4 Cup Fresh Lime
Juice1/2 cup plus 2 TBS
light rum

6 TBS mint Syrup

1 TBS Oil

1 TBS coarse kosher
salt

6—chicken breasts

3—large limes quar-
tered lengthwise

Fresh mint sprigs

Whisk lime juice, 1/2
cup rum, and next 4
ingredients in a bowl.
Place chicken and
marinade in large
plastic bag and seal.
Chill 4 hours to over
night.

Place lime quarters in
a shallow bowl and
pour over 2 TBS rum,
tossing to coat.

Grill cooking chicken
until cooked through-

out.

Place lime wedges on
grill to char about 5
minutes.

Garnish platter with
mint sprigs and
grilled limes, squeez-
ing a couple over the
chicken and serve.



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 by calling 513-721-7900 and ask for the PFLAG number. 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 homosexuali-

ty, 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 the 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. The membership year runs October 1 to September 30.

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.

Scholarships: Each year your chapter funds its own scholarship program. The scholarships are awarded annually to deserving members of the community. More infor-

mation 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 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 Also, find us on [Facebook](#) PFLAG Cincinnati

Want to get involved in the chapter contact a board member for volunteer opportunities

PO BOX 19634
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-0634

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

