

19 YEARS AND STILL GROWING

WINTER 2005

Thoughts From The Prez:

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

We have exciting news!!! This year the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of PFLAG celebrates 20 years. It's hard to believe that we are 20 years old. So much has happened since that first meeting.

In newsletter articles throughout this year, you will hear from previous presidents of PFLAG. They will share with you what it was like to build a wonderful, thriving chapter like ours.

You are also invited to celebrate with us

on March 5th as we "Party Like It's 1985." We have a wonderful evening planned, so order tickets early.

Today we celebrate our chapter, however, it wasn't always this way. Those brave presidents and members who came before us, paved the way. We walk in their shoes today and applaud their efforts. The success that we enjoy is due largely to their hard work. They were brave enough to walk in the Pride Parades, speak out to the community, and take the risks necessary, so that our children could begin to believe that equal rights are possible

for GLBT people.

I don't know who all of you are, but you do. And from the bottom of my heart I would like to say thank you. Nothing we have accomplished so far, would have been possible without each and every one of you. Come celebrate with us and be a part of the success that you have made possible.

This year's scholarship banquet and 20 year celebration is a tribute to each one of you. Thank you from all of us in the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of PFLAG.

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From the membership committee

Please remember to check the mailing label on this issue of the newsletter. We have included the date of expiration on your mailing label to send a gentle reminder of when your PFLAG dues expire. The date will also include a letter indicating the type of membership dues you have paid. If a date does not appear on the label that either means that you are not yet a member or that our records do not show when you last paid your dues.

Your dues are our only source of revenue. Our only other fundraiser is the annual banquet and the proceeds from that event are earmarked for scholarships. We depend upon your generous support through your dues.

If it is time to renew your membership, please use the form included in this newsletter to do so.

Thank you for your help!

Tom Jenkins, Membership Chair

MISSION STATEMENT

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and wellbeing of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons and their families and friends, through **support**, to cope

with the adverse society, through **education**, to enlighten an ill-informed public, and through **advocacy**, to end discrimination and to secure civil rights. PFLAG provides an opportunity for confidential dia-

log about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human dignity. Meetings are open to all and are completely confidential.

Why should you join PFLAG?

1. To help provide a safe, welcoming, affirming and nurturing environment for the parents of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex children, their families, and their friends.
2. To provide educational literature available at our monthly meetings free of charge.
3. To maintain our lending library of educational materials.
4. To mail our newsletter to over 900 individuals and organizations and businesses in the Greater Cincinnati area.
5. Strengthen networking and support with other GLBT organizations and events, such as, The Youth Summit, Cincinnati Youth Group and The GLBT Community Center.
6. Work for the full and equal human rights of all GLBT persons and their families.

If you are not a member of PFLAG, please consider doing so, only with your support are we able to continue our outreach into the Greater Cincinnati Community. I hope you will support our goals by becoming a member today.
JOIN PFLAG TODAY

From Caitlin Arnest:

This just seems like useful info for everyone...

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions: *Ask the individual to smile. *Ask him or her to raise both arms. *Ask the person to speak a simple sentence. If he or she has trouble with any of these tasks, call 9-1-1 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher. After discovering that a group of non-medical volunteers could identify facial weakness, arm weakness and speech problems, researchers urged the general public to learn the three questions. They presented their conclusions at the American Stroke Association's annual meeting last February. Widespread use of this test could result in prompt diagnosis and treatment of the stroke and prevent brain damage.



Comedy, with a special gay slant. Will raise for the second time be raising money for a scholarship fund recognizing a Cincinnati area volunteer who devoted more than two decades of her time and energy to the gay community. Carol's on Main will be hosting the second show to raise money for the PFLAG Cincinnati Scholarship fund to benefit the Martha Weyand Memorial Scholarship Fund. The ADULT ONLY show will be held Wednesday, March 2nd with free appetizers at 6pm and the Show starting at 7:30. Seating will be limited to the first 80 tickets so get your tickets early. Tickets are \$10.00 each and may be purchased by contacting Carols on Main at 825 Main Street in downtown Cincinnati. Inquiries may also be directed to 513-651-2667 after February 8th.

Martha was a founding member of PFLAG and was very active and instrumental in the starting of our chapter. Besides PFLAG Martha spent countless hours in the gay community of Cincinnati working with AIDS Education groups such as AVOC and the Caracole House. It was not uncommon to see Martha and other PFLAGers in the Gay bars of Cincinnati handing out condoms to help curb the spread of AIDS. Please come out and support the Martha Weyand Scholarship Fund in her memory for all the work she put into the Cincinnati Gay Community.

Reflections of a past newsletters,

By June Delph

In the last PFLAG Newsletter a beautiful poem by Maria Sulcer appeared on page 2, I'd like to tell you how Maria came to write this lovely poem.

After Paul's death in May 1996, Tammy Patton and Maria became a part of the many, many people who grieved with our family. They sent us flowers, remembered our birthdays, sent us Mother's and Father's Day cards, walked

every year with the AIDSWALK Paul Delph Team, and just generally kept in close touch with us. They became a part of our family.

On May 21, 1997, the first anniversary of Paul's death, our family invited Paul's Cincinnati friends and our now extended family to meet us at Spring Grove Cemetery's Lakeside Mausoleum where Paul's ashes are inurned. We planned a short ceremony and spent time remembering Paul's interaction with each of us.

Tammy was unable to attend this gathering and Maria came alone. A few months later, Maria presented us with a beautifully framed copy of "Feel You Here." I can't tell you how wonderful it is to have a talented and supportive friend like Maria. The poem will always be a reminder to our family of how much we are indebted to Maria and Tammy for their love and support when we needed it most. Thank you, Maria!

Cooking with Tim

Spaghetti Sauce

- 2 lbs ground beef
- 3/4 cup Italian Bread Crumbs
- 1 tea Olive Oil
- 1 tea Garlic Powder
- 1 tea Onion Powder
- 1/3 Cup Italian Dressing
- 2 egg
- 1/2 cup Parminishon Cheese
- 1 Large Can V-8 Juice

- 2 small can Tomato Past
- 2 cup Water
- 1/3 Cup Italian Dressing
- 3 Cloves of Garlic
- 1 tea Olive Oil
- 2 tea Italian Seasoning
- 1/2 cup Parminishon Cheese
- 1 table Onion Powder
- 2 table drippings from meatballs

Mix first eight ingredients together and form into small balls and Bake on 350 for 30 minutes or until done.

Mix remaining ingredients together and bring to a rolling boil. Turn heat down and simmer on low heat covered for about 2 hours or until desired thickness.

Recipe a creation by:
John Whatley



2004/2005 Officers & Chairpersons/Board Members

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Hotline:	Marie Jenkins	513.248.1941	MarieMJ@aol.com

General Membership Application

Type of Membership

Check below

- New
- Renewal
- Change of Address

Membership

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime | \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | \$ _____ |

Comments:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____

- Please send all mailings blind
- Please contact me for Volunteer Opportunities

P.O. Box 19634
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-0634
www.pflagcinci.org



A HISTORY OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

BY: RICH STACKPOLE

Each year the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) offers scholarships to recognize outstanding gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, intersex and straight supportive students in the local community. It is with hopes that these scholarship monies will encourage continuing education for persons involved with the GLBT community.

The students that have been recipients of past PFLAG scholarships were not only considered because of their academic achievements but also their dedication to service. For example, there have been several recipients that against all odds, started gay/straight alliance type organizations in their high schools or colleges. This enables others behind them

access to resources and a supportive environment if needed. Others have been involved in the GLBT community, planning youth summits in the Cincinnati area for all people desiring knowledge of anything from sexual harassment, gender bias and performing in drag. Still others have gone the political route and worked on campaigns to end discriminatory practices towards people in the community. Our first award to a straight supporter was awarded last year to a student that developed resource materials regarding AIDS and was able to implement the guide into a campaign for sex education in Africa during her time in the Peace Corps.

Our recipients continue to work and studies in their field of interest, and as a result have bettered the community

in which they live. We are proud to read the many accomplishments of the applicants and look forward to receiving more applications this year. To be eligible, the applicant must be a resident of the greater Cincinnati area, or attending college here.

Applicants must be 17 as of the application deadline, have a proven record of positive involvement with the GLBT community, and cannot be a prior winner of this award. All application materials, including supporting documentation must be submitted by the posted application deadline in April.

Overall, every one of the past recipients has been able to foster a positive image of the GLBT community and we are thankful for that. The PFLAG scholarship is not just another

About the PFLAG Cincinnati Chapter:

Our *regular* meetings are always held on the **second Tuesday of each month** at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, 103 William Howard Taft Rd., from 7:00 – 9:30 P.M. Meetings are open to parents friends and family of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons, as well as to gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons.

- **February 12** **6 pm**
Cincinnati Men's
Chorus Scarlet Ball
The Madison
- **February 13**
6pm Food 7:00 Show
Miss Valentine Pageant
The Dock
- **March 2**
6pm Food 7:30 Show
PFLAG Comedy/Drag
Show
Carol's on Main
- February 20**
6pm Food 7:00 Show
Emperor Tom's Birthday
Party/Show
The Dock
- **February 24** **7:00 pm**
Cocktails with the Court
Shooters
- **March 5** **6:00 pm**
Scholarship Banquet
The Madison
- **March 8** **7:00pm**
PFLAG Monthly Meeting
Mt Auburn
Presbyterian Church
- **March 13**
The Court's "Meet the
Parents" Show
- **April 12** **7:00pm**
PFLAG Monthly Meeting
Mt Auburn
Presbyterian Church
- **April 16**
GLSEN Spring Prom
- **May 10** **7:00pm**
PFLAG Monthly Meeting
Mt Auburn
Presbyterian Church
- **June 11 & 12**
2005 Cincinnati Pride

PFLAG CINCINNATI THE EARLY DAYS

By. Marian Wedge

My journey began in the summer of 1979 when my son told me that he was gay. It was the summer after he had graduated from high school. We were living in a small town in Michigan at the time and I had no one to talk to. I did tell a few friends and I had a horrendous telephone bill calling my brother in Kentucky and crying over the phone.

Don't get me wrong! There was no way that I would have discarded my wonderful son, but everything I had ever heard about gays was negative, and I needed correct information and support. I ended up at the mental health clinic in the nearest town, and it was a great comfort to talk and learn.

The next year (after my youngest daughter had graduated from high school and left for college), I moved to Lansing for a job. The councilor at the clinic had told me about a group there called PFLAG, so I got in touch. The group consisted of three mothers who got the word out and met once a month to talk. After I got there, we were four.

In 1984 I decided to move back to my hometown of Cincinnati. Soon after, I heard a week long report on the gay community in Cincinnati on Channel 12 during the 11 o'clock newscast. I called the station to talk to the newscaster and asked her if there was a PFLAG chapter in the city. She said that she did not know, and gave me the number of the gay/lesbian hotline. I called the number and asked the man who answered the same question. He said "NO", so I said "well, I guess we'd better start one." On the other end of the line I heard "Hooray!"

The man who answered was named RAY. I can't recall his last name since it was a long time ago and he has since moved out of town. However, Ray, Todd Camm, Ron Mohring and I spent the next year working to start a chapter. We looked for a place to meet, pooled our money, had fliers printed, and hit all the gay bars, etc. to post them. We approached the Enquirer to write an article on me and they would not touch it with a ten foot pole, but Maureen Conlan of the Post came and interviewed me. The article was in the post July 1985, with a box announcing our first meeting.

The first meeting took place in the back room of the Crazy Ladies Bookstore in August 1985, and there were 12 ladies in attendance. The next month there was only three including me and Martha Weyand. Martha's daughter Peggy and husband Bob worked tirelessly in the early days, along with Mary and Ernie Whiteside, Beverly and Chuck Bell, Chris Ott and his then partner Kenne Pelfrey, among others. In January of 1986 we elected our first officers, me as president and Martha as treasurer. In our seventh year I passed the gavel to Diane Townley when she was elected president. Diane was instrumental in starting our scholarship program, our first banquet was only 12 of us who got together and had dinner at a restaurant.

Our meetings have moved from different venues until Yvonne Rivior offered us the facilities at Family Services in downtown Cincinnati. We met there for several years until we outgrew the room and asked Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church if we could meet there and we remain there to this day.

At the beginning, in order to become more visible in the community, we began our "Homemade cookies and a hug" program for a donation. When the AIDS Crisis reared its ugly head, we wanted to do something for AIDS Awareness. I suggested "Condoms and a Hug" (but for no donation this time.) Everyone agreed and we hit the bars once more with piles of condoms which we handed out to everyone. We had used double sided tape to attach a note which read: '

"Wear this in good health. From your Moms and Dads at PFLAG"

I really don't remember our first boards or officers beyond what I have mentioned. I may be able to find some record eventually, but may also have thrown them away in a frenzy of cleaning and sorting.

If everyone returned who had ever come to a meeting through the years, we would have a huge crowd. I imagine close to 1,000.

P.O. Box 19634
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-0634
www.pflagcinci.org



Party Like It's 1985

The Greater Cincinnati Chapter of PFLAG
Celebrates 20 Years
at the

13th Annual Scholarship Banquet

at
The Madison

Seventh and Madison, Covington, KY
Saturday, March 5, 2005

Cash Bar 6:00 p.m. • Sit-down Dinner 7:00 p.m.
Raffle • Silent Auction • Complimentary Valet Parking
Tickets \$40 • Students \$25

Send checks payable to:
PFLAG, PO Box 19634, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219 - 0634

For more information call 513-923-1626

Proceeds will benefit the PFLAG Cincinnati Scholarship Fund and PFLAG Activities

SUBSCRIBE TO "THE WEEKLY!"

Want to know what's going on in Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky's GLBT and supportive community each and every week? Sign up today for "The Weekly" It's a FREE email service presented by Greater Cincinnati GLBT News and the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Cincinnati. We'll send ONE email to you a week which includes info on all the great things happening out there from community group meetings to social events to theatre and art openings to nightlife. Sign up today by visiting www.greatercincinnatiqlbtnews.com and clicking on the "Weekly" button on the lower left hand corner of the home page.

Youth Summit 2005

With the 2005 Greater Cincinnati GLBTQ Youth Summit only 260 days away, we thought we'd build a little fire to warm your way through those cold winter chills.

Jump in the Action with the 2005 Youth Summit Kick-off Party Saturday, February 12, 2005, 3:00pm at Dewey's Pizza, 265 Hosea Avenue in Clifton.

Melt off your icicles with other gay, bi and straight youth and adults as we "Jump in the Action" of making the 2005 Youth Summit a reality.

Free Pizza and Drinks for EVERYONE who comes!

For more info, connect with us at jumpintheaction@cincyouthsummit.org.

Make the 2005 Greater Cincinnati GLBTQ Youth Summit a reality! Jump in the Action!

PO BOX 19634
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-0634

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