



PFLAG Ann Arbor

PO Box 7471

Ann Arbor, MI 48107

(734) 741-0659

PFLAG.AnnArbor@gmail.com

Newsletter December 2021-February 2022 Volume 39 Issue 2

President's message:

My concern is that we not burden our children with the external societal baggage of their being LGBTQ+. So, in a socially just world, we would seek out supports that fundamentally challenge the maintenance of practices that place the burden on individuals to accommodate to these barriers. This is as true for people who are LGBTQ+ or people with disabilities as it is for other stigmatized minorities. I say this knowing full well that I have carried the burdens of secrecy and shame as my own child navigated the world first as a person with an invisible disability and then as an LGBTQ+ person. We need to be attentive to our own internalized attitudes that make it so difficult for our children to be who they are.

At the end of December, I wrote this paragraph to remind myself of the challenges that we face in a world that targets LGBTQ+ children and adults for being who they are. As I review what I wrote then, we are in the midst of the Winter Olympics where athletes are being scrutinized for eligibility because of their gender identities. Several states are passing legislation that bans books that portray LGBTQ+ characters. States are also considering legislation that would bar any medical gender confirmation treatment for youth younger than 18 years old, even with the consent of their parents. Some states are barring transgender and non-binary athletes from participation in sports unless they meet hormone standards prior to each competition. Some are still barring transgender and non-binary youth from using bathrooms that conform with their gender identities. These acts of oppression seem to be overwhelmingly targeting young people. We should be very ashamed if we aren't there defending them, and we should be afraid for what might come next.

Then there are states that are advancing equity for LGBTQ+ people: banning "conversion therapy"-- the horrible practice of "deprogramming" people from being LGBTQ+, supporting LGBTQ+ people through non-discrimination ordinances, policies and laws, and affirming LGBTQ+ people by including them as separate demographic data points, and by making it possible to

select non-binary gender designations on official identification documents. It is still a Herculean and costly task to change one's name, and then to have the name change reflected in all official paperwork, but it is possible. Oh, and did I mention marriage equality? Recently, a change in policy allowed the surviving spouses of military personnel to receive death benefits, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. In some ways, we've come a long way, and we should happily celebrate the small victories.

The fact of the matter is that it shouldn't take more effort for LGBTQ+ people to be who they are, unencumbered by the burdens of having to prove who they are day after day. Yet, I hear that LGBTQ+ people are regularly faced with the hurts of being misgendered, deadnamed, deprived of work, housing, recreation and other basic accommodations by virtue of who they are. This year, we are facing changes in election laws, redistricting, term limits, accelerated use of social media to influence public opinion, and continuing mistrust of all kinds of information, regardless of its sources. We have a lot of work to do. I hope that you'll join PFLAG and other organizations in their efforts to Get Out the Vote, speak out when discriminatory legislation is proposed, and shine a light on the things that still need changing.

Kathy Kosobud, President

Meetings are back!

Our next Zoom meeting will be on **Thursday, February 17th from 6:30 to 8:00 PM**. Our presenter is **Kathleen Redmon, Director of Programs at [Affirmations](#)**, in Ferndale.

[Register here](#) with your email address and we'll send you a link.

Contact PFLAG.AnnArbor@gmail.com for further information. Come with a story of your own, AND be ready to pitch in with your own peer-to-peer support.

Local news of note:

Kudos to Kate Davis, parent of a non-binary child, who submitted public commentary at the Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education meeting on Feb. 9th proposing the elimination of sex-segregated recreational sports teams for K-5 grade levels, and replacing them with co-ed teams. You can see her comments [at this link](#).

Congratulations to David Hayward, newly appointed [Trustee to the Saline Area Schools](#) who commented: "The number one thing that motivates me, as someone who went through his career as an LGBTQ youth who did not always have a great experience in our schools, I want to be the kind of advocate that was never in the room for me. That's especially become important to me that my own child has come out as non-binary."

Opportunities for participation

Survey for Parents/Caregivers: Experiences of Parents and Caregivers of Transgender and Non-Binary Youth Study in the U.S. [at this link](#).

Register for the BMM Pride Summit (virtual is still open) [at this link](#) The summit is for LGBTQIA+ middle and high school youth to spend a day learning, connecting, and building community!

Queer Night at the University of Michigan Museum of Art February 18, 6 pm-10pm. Event Information: <https://umma.umich.edu/events/5894/queer-night-umma>

Welcome to our Leadership Team!

After our meeting on December 12, 2021, we are pleased to announce that we have a leadership team:

President: Kathy Kosobud

Secretary: Lisa Borgsdorf

Co-Treasurers: Ellen Urda and Curt Powell

Volunteers needed

- Program and Host Committee: Plan for speakers, videos or other content for each monthly Zoom meeting.
- Bylaws revision: With the leadership, revise the bylaws. Share with membership for adoption.
- Facebook curators: Make daily posts of local and Chapter events. Check for messages and spam. Respond to or forward messages to I&R team..
- Website maintenance: Update or revise the 6-page website.
- Communications, Information, and Referral: Phone, FB, and email contacts--read, listen and respond. Record contacts in Information and Referral (I&R) log for reference or repeat contacts.
- Digital workspace: Google Workspace for Non-Profits help set up and maintain.
- Newsletter: Create a summary of Chapter activities and events for the month.
- Booklists/Filmographies: Add to spreadsheets listing recommended books and films for different age groups and audiences.
- Resource lists/links: Create or add to sub-folders for therapy, medical care, shelter, food assistance, employment, transportation, clothing, other organizations, etc.

Contact PFLAG.AnnArbor@gmail.com for more information on volunteer jobs.



Support PFLAG Ann Arbor!

Become a Member!

October started the new fiscal year for PFLAG Ann Arbor. Membership fees are due.

Membership Application		Mail To:
(Please Print)		PFLAG Ann Arbor
Name _____		PO Box 7471
Address _____		Ann Arbor MI 48107
City _____ St _____ Zip Code _____		Make checks payable to PFLAG Ann Arbor
E-mail _____		\$ 35.00 Individual _____
Put me on your E-mail Notification System _____		\$ 45.00 Household _____
Telephone Numbers _____		\$ 55.00 Supporting _____
New _____ Renewal _____ Change of Address _____		\$ 105.00 Contributing _____
\$15 of this donation will be sent to PFLAG National		\$ 1000.00 Lifetime _____
		Donation of Support _____

WEB: www.pflagaa.org FB: <https://www.facebook.com/PFLAGannarbor> PH: (734) 741-0659

PFLAG/Ann Arbor Mission Statement

PFLAG/Ann Arbor promotes the well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning persons, their families, and friends through

- Support - to cope with an adverse society.
- Education - to enlighten an ill-informed public.
- Advocacy - to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG/Ann Arbor provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

PFLAG is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is not affiliated with any religious or political group. All donations are tax-exempt.
