



PFLAG **Southwest Washington Chapter**

December 2017 Newsletter

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🌐 Web: <https://sites.google.com/site/pflagsouthwestwa> 🌐 WSC Web: www.pflagwsc.org



Join us:

We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Children’s Home Society, 1112 Columbia Street, Vancouver, WA 98660

Next Education and Support Meeting: January 9, 7pm

- The education session will be followed by our caring and sharing support group.

2018 dates to remember:

- February 13, 7pm, PFLAG SWWA meeting
 - And the *Annual Meeting of the Members* and election of officers
- March 13, 7pm, PFLAG SWWA meeting
- April 10, 7pm, PFLAG SWWA meeting
- May 8, 7pm PFLAG SWWA meeting
- June 12, 7pm, PFLAG SWWA meeting
- July 10, 7pm, PFLAG SWWA meeting
- July 14, Saturday in the Park, Vancouver’s Pride Event, 11-6pm, Esther Short Park
- August 14, 7pm, PFLAG SWWA meeting

In the Local News:

Recent Articles in the Columbian about LGBTQ Families

We appreciate the Columbian publishing positive stories about the lives of LGBTQ people

The Columbian, December 10, 2017

Five years after legalized gay marriage, couple reflect on **living their ...**
4 days ago ... Five years after legalized gay marriage, couple reflect on **living their dream**. by Patty Hastings. Paul Harris and James Griener met on a crisp winter day in 1972 on the Brooklyn Heights promenade, a walkway overlooking the East River and the Manhattan skyline. They struck up a conversation and kept ...

www.columbian.com

<https://www.columbian.com/.../five-years-after-legalized-gay-marriage-couple-reflects-on-living-their-dream/>

The Columbian, December 11, 2017

Same-sex couple appreciate **the benefits of marriage** « Special ...
3 days ago ... Erica Erland, 38, laughs now about her encounter with the paramedic at Mount Desert Island Hospital in Bar Harbor, Maine. “He was like, ‘No, seriously.’ ” The medical emergency that derailed her honeymoon with Mel Buckner was an upsetting and unexpected start to the women’s **marriage**. Two weeks ...

www.columbian.com

www.columbian.com/.../same-sex-couple-appreciates-the-benefits-of-marriage/

The Columbian, December 12, 2017

Same-sex parents navigate ups and downs of **making a family ...**
2 days ago ... Same-sex parents navigate ups and downs of **making a family**. by Patty Hastings. RIDGEFIELD — Even before they wed, Kris and Jen Riley dreamed of having a child. So, while living in Arizona, they started the process of getting pregnant using an anonymous sperm donor. In 2008, artificial insemination ...

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<https://www.columbian.com/.../same-sex-parents-navigate-ups-and-downs-of-making-a-family/>

In the National News:

Recent Articles in from National PFLAG Policy Matters, December 15, 2017

[Pentagon to allow openly transgender people to enlist.](#) The Pentagon will allow openly transgender people to enlist in the military beginning Jan. 1st. The new policy reflects growing legal pressure on the issue, and the difficult hurdles the federal government would have to cross to enforce the President's demand to ban transgender individuals from the military. Two federal courts already have ruled against the ban. The new guidelines mean that the Pentagon can disqualify potential recruits with gender dysphoria, a history of medical treatments associated with gender transition and those who underwent reconstruction. But such recruits are allowed in if a medical provider certifies they've been clinically stable in their identified gender for 18 months and are free of significant distress or impairment in social, occupational or other important areas. Transgender individuals receiving hormone therapy also must be stable on their medication for 18 months. See also first two stories in this issue's Court Matters section.

COURT MATTERS

[Federal Judge rules transgender people can enlist in military, denying Pres. Trump's bid to delay deadline, ahead of the Administration's appeal on the night of December 11th.](#) During the day of December 11th, U.S. District Judge Kollar-Kotelly of the District of Columbia denied the Trump administration's request [expressed in a memorandum](#) to delay an order requiring the military to begin accepting transgender recruits starting January 1st, saying the argument for more time seemed based on "vague claims." Her ruling follows her [earlier opinion](#) blocking the president's ban on military recruitment of transgender men and women that possibly would have forced the dismissal of current service members starting in March.

[On the evening of December 11th, DOJ appeals ruling that transgender people are free to enlist in US military.](#)

After the federal judge's ruling, however, the Justice Department appealed the ruling to a DC-based federal appeals court. "The government seeks a stay pending appeal of the portion of the injunction concerning accessions," government lawyers said in their brief filed late Monday. They argued that implementing "a significant change" to military standards for the composition of the armed forces even before a court decides the merits of the case would "place extraordinary burdens on our armed forces and may harm military readiness."

[SCOTUS declines to review a June Texas Supreme Court decision that ruled the legalization of same-sex marriage does not fully address the right to marriage benefits.](#) On December 4th, The Supreme Court of the U.S. declined to overturn a Texas high court ruling that raised questions about the rights of couples in same-sex marriages. The case arose in June when the Texas Supreme Court revived a lawsuit that sought to eliminate benefits offered to the same-sex spouses of City of Houston employees, ruling in Texas that the right to a marriage license did not automatically entitle same-sex couples to spousal insurance benefits.

[Supreme Court will not hear LGBTQ workplace discrimination case.](#) On Dec. 11th, SCOTUS declined to hear a case on whether workplace discrimination protections on the basis of sex include sexual orientation and nonconformity to gender norms of appearance and demeanor. The justices are expected to hear other LGBTQ employment cases but denied to hear an appeal from Lambda Legal client Jameka Evans, who said she was fired from her job as a security officer at a state-owned hospital in Savannah, GA because she is a lesbian. Several federal courts have affirmed the argument that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, when properly understood, protects LGBTQ employees.

STATE MATTERS

Washington - [Washington considers adding non-binary gender option "X" on birth certificates.](#) The state's Department of Health recently held a public hearing on the topic and heard from supporters and detractors. If the proposed bill becomes law, it could be effective in early 2018 and the state's Department of Licensing is in early stages of deciding whether to offer a third gender "X" option on state-issued identity documents.