



PFLAG *Southwest Washington Chapter*

February 2018 Newsletter ♥ ♥ ♥



☎ Call: 360-562-0491 ✉ Email: pflagswwa@gmail.com
🌐 Web: www.pflagswwa.org 🌐 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



PFLAG

Southwest Washington Chapter

Join us at our February meeting to celebrate the chapter's 22nd birthday. We shall eat cake!



Next Education and Support Meeting: February 13, 7pm

- Our speaker will be Summer Brown, LMFT
- The education session will be followed by our caring and sharing support group and the *Annual Meeting of the Members* and election of officers

2018 dates to remember:

- 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

Equal Rights Washington Legislative Lobby Day

By Dale Clukey, Chapter Treasurer



Like PFLAG, Equal Rights Washington (ERW) is a state-wide organization advocating on behalf of the LGBTQ community. Each year ERW, during the legislative session, sponsors an LGBTQ lobbying day. This year, on January 23, I joined other advocates gathered at the United Churches of Olympia to be briefed about legislative priorities. These include enacting a ban on conversion therapy for minors, parentage laws to support our LGBTQ families, anti-bullying laws, and laws to ensure life-saving, de-escalation training for all law enforcement officers. This last one includes specific education about sensitive interactions with transgender persons. Armed with information folders provided by ERW for activists to share with legislators, I talked to two legislative assistants about issues of importance to me and the LGBTQ community. The assistants, who work for conservative legislators, were very welcoming and attentive. Though I was a bit nervous at first, this proved to be a very positive experience. I hope you can join me when the 2019 legislative day comes around. It feels great to promote LGBTQ friendly legislation.

Announcements!

Look!



The chapter has a new web site!

Look!



www.pflagswwa.org

Look!



Designed and created Phaedra Baldwin



Also, Support our chapter by shopping with Amazon Smile

When you name PFLAG Vancouver-Sw Washington as your charity, Amazon Smile donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the chapter.

Washington State News

Beware: The “Bathroom Bill” Trolls Are At It Again

Introduced in the Washington State House of Representatives by Representatives Taylor, Shea, McCaslin, Young, Klippert, J. Walsh, Haler, Short, Manweller, Hargrove, Pike, Holy, Rodne, Buys, Koster, and Schmick, this bill would amend an existing law that prohibits a whole range of discriminatory actions to specifically allow transgender discrimination. The amendment reads:

(4) Nothing in this chapter prohibits a public or private entity from limiting access to a private facility segregated by gender, such as a bathroom, restroom, toilet, shower, locker room, or sauna, to a person if the person is preoperative, nonoperative, or otherwise has genitalia of a different gender from that for which the facility is segregated. Nothing in this chapter grants any right to a person to access a private facility segregated by gender, such as a bathroom, restroom, toilet, shower, locker room, or sauna, of a public or private entity if the person is preoperative, nonoperative, or otherwise has genitalia of a different gender from that for which the facility is segregated.

At this time, the amendment languishes in committee and is unlikely to advance to hearings or a floor vote. Nevertheless, we must be vigilant in defending the hard-won rights of our LGBTQ family members and friends because the proponents of discrimination have tried numerous times to enact fear-based laws through the initiative and legislative processes. To view the entire bill, open the following link:

<http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1011&Year=2017>

Click on Original Bill under Available Documents. The above amendment is underlined at the end of the bill.

Birth Certificate Progress

In January, the Washington State Department of Health released a new rule that adds a third non-binary gender marker to birth certificates. This doesn't just impact people who identify as non-binary. This also clarifies the rulemaking process for *anyone* who wants to change the gender marker on their birth certificates—whether to the non-binary “X”, or to male or female.

Here are some ways for you to learn more about this change:

- Read about some [FAQs](#) associated with this change.
- Find the new rule on the Department of Health's [website](#).
- Check out a [press release](#) from Washington SAFE Alliance partner organizations.
- Keep an eye on the [Washington SAFE Alliance](#) & [Pride Foundation](#) Facebook pages for further resources, like a Know Your Rights pamphlet that will be coming soon