



PFLAG Southwest Washington Chapter

March 2020 Newsletter



Phone 360-562-0491 • Email pflagswwa@gmail.com
Website: www.pflagswwa.org • WSC Website: www.pflagwsc.org

Join us at our regular meetings:

Vancouver Meeting
Second Tuesday, 7pm
Children's Home Society
1112 Columbia Street,
Vancouver, WA 98660

Battle Ground Meeting
Third Thursday, 7pm
Mallard Landing Assisted Living
813 SE Clark Ave
Battle Ground, WA 98604

March 10, 7pm-9pm. Vancouver Meeting

- Program: Amelia Shelley, Executive Director of Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries, will speak about advocacy and community support and will discuss the Drag Queen Story Hour DQSH and how it fits into the library's programming and mission. Amelia has been a public librarian for nearly 25 years. She earned her Master of Science in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois. Amelia is a member of the American Library Association, the Public Library Association and the Washington Library Association. She is currently the Vice Chair of Public Libraries of Washington, a 501c6 lobbying organization that works to further the work of libraries in our state.
- Our caring and sharing support group will follow.

March 19, 7pm-9pm. Battle Ground Meeting

- Our caring and sharing support group and advocacy discussion will take place.

In this issue:

- Annual Business Meeting of the Members
- Expanding the Chapter's Financial Base
- Equal Rights Washington's Lobby Day and Washington State Legislative Successes
- LGBTQ Happenings
 - Gender Affirming Healthcare Synposium, March 13
 - LGBTQ+ Cultural Competency Workshop, March 14
 - Queer and Trans Youth Summit, March 24
- PFLAG Academy: Chapter Leadership Transitions: Best Practices for Success



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Please name PFLAG Vancouver-Sw Washington as your charity. Amazon Smile donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases

Annual Business Meeting of the Members

The Annual Business Meeting of the Members was held on February 11.

During the meeting the board was elected for 2020-2021. Elected were President De Stewart; Vice President Linda Buckley; Secretary Jessica Cole; Treasurer Dale Clukey; Director Barbara Aitken; Director Nancy Drescher; and Director Dale Gaskill

The board also announced the 2020 goals:

- Collaborate with Queer Youth Resource Center to provide youth support
- Sponsor a BG pride celebration
- Expand chapter financial base by reaching out to local businesses/organizations for donations



PFLAG Southwest Washington celebrated its 24th anniversary on February 11. Two of our founding members, Nancy and Barbara, hold the celebratory cake. These pioneers have worked for equality for decades, through legislative campaigns, local outreach, and personal support of the LGBTQ community in Southwest Washington.

Expanding the Chapter's Financial Base

One of the 2020-2021 goals is to expand the chapter's financial base by reaching out to local businesses/organizations for donations.

If you know of a business or organization that may be willing to donate to the chapter, we have a helpful packet we encourage you to use to introduce prospective donors to PFLAG. Email to pflagswwa@gmail.com to get a packet.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Generosity
changes everything





Tuesday, February 11th, Equal Rights Washington hosted the annual Lobby Day in Olympia. Jessica Cole represented the chapter. Jessica and other LGBTQ advocates met with legislators and their staff to promote passage of bills that benefit and protect Washington State's youth and LGBTQ community.

2020 Washington State Legislative Session Successes

- **Nicki Kuhnhausen Act – Ban on Panic Defenses Bill** – Prohibits defendants from claiming diminished capacity or justifying their violence by claiming that they were upset when they found out the gender identity or sexual orientation of someone they were dating or flirting with. **PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE!**
 - **The bill partially reads as follows:** "A person is not justified in using force against another based on the discovery of, knowledge about, or potential disclosure of the victim's actual or perceived gender, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation, including under circumstances in which the victim made an unwanted nonforcible romantic or sexual advance towards the defendant, or in which the defendant and victim dated or had a romantic or sexual relationship"
- **Sex Education Bill** - Currently, schools in Washington are not required to teach sex ed and if they choose to, the only requirement is that it is scientifically accurate. This bill would require all schools teach sex and that consent education and LGBTQ people are a part of the curriculum. **PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE!**
- **HIV Law Modernization Bill** - Most HIV laws have not been updated since the beginning of the AIDS crisis, built off of fear and a lack of scientific understanding of the virus. This bill addresses many of those areas. Currently, people living with HIV may be charged with felony assault for having sex without disclosing their status, even if no transmission occurs, and even if they are undetectable and transmission is not possible. This would either reduce the assault charge to a misdemeanor or eliminate it. **PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE!**
- **Safe Harbor Bill** - Current law automatically considers anyone under 18 in the sex trade to be a trafficking victim, yet those same people often get arrested by police. Jail and the criminal justice system only adds more trauma for trafficking victims. This bill would define the crime of prostitution as something only applicable to people over 18. Patronizing a prostitute and statutory rape laws would remain, but this would make it clear that trafficking victims need social services, not arrest and to be treated like criminals. **PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE!**
- **LGBTQ Veterans Coordinator** - Promoting access to earned benefits and services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer veterans. **PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE!**

Gender Affirming Healthcare Symposium



Save The Date

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020

9 AM – 4 PM

WSU SPOKANE

Join fellow healthcare providers to discuss serving and advocating for transgender and gender non-conforming patients. Take part in one of three tracks: medical care, mental health, or advocacy. Novice to advanced topics will be covered.

Attendees will be eligible for continuing education credits and continuing medical education credits.

For more information, contact:

Matthew Jeffries

matthew.jeffries@wsu.edu

509-335-8841

Presented by:

Division of Student Affairs

Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine

Health Sciences Spokane



Healing Bridge Invites You!

LGBTQ+ CULTURAL COMPETENCY WORKSHOP

PRESENTED BY DAN HAMMER, LAMBERT HOUSE



WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Faith Leaders and Congregants
Allies and Families of LGBTQ+
Teachers and Staff
LGBTQ+ People
Community Members

MARCH 14, 1:30-5:30 PM

Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit
2400 NW 9th Ave
Battle Ground WA 98604

FREE EVENT

Snacks provided

Please RSVP:
www.eventbright.com

FOR MORE INFO:
HealingBridgeInfo@gmail.com

Training will include:

- Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation 101
- Emerging LGBTQ+ Vocabulary
- Responding Well When Someone Comes Out
- Extended LGBTQ+ History in the US
- Current Social Landscape and Challenges

*Imagine...

...a young man from the youth group tells his youth pastor that he is gay and doesn't know how to tell his parents.

...a mother comes to the pastor seeking to reconcile her beliefs with her love for her lesbian daughter.

...a Sunday school teacher comes out to the children's pastor as genderqueer and asks if/how the church community is willing to support them.

We will give you:

- A deeper understanding of the issues
- Knowledge that creates safer environments
- A better ability to support, communicate, and connect



***This program is not religious or restricted to any faith community. We welcome people of all faiths or no faith.**

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  VANCOUVER

QUEER & TRANS YOUTH LEADERSHIP

SUMMIT

CONNECT. LEARN. ENGAGE.

MARCH 24 | 9:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.

WSU VANCOUVER · CHECK IN AT FIRSTENBURG STUDENT COMMONS

**YOU
BELONG
HERE**

This **FREE** summit is open to all
teens grades 9 - 12 in Southwest
Washington and their chaperones.

Featuring keynote speaker **Mx. Ace Schwarz**,
recipient of the GLSEN 2019 Educator of the Year Award



WORKSHOPS // KEYNOTE SPEAKER // RESOURCE FAIR // LUNCH // PRIZES

REGISTER TODAY.
bit.ly/QTYLS

BE A PART OF THE SUMMIT!
Submit workshop proposal by 5 p.m. March 13
bit.ly/QTYLSProposals.

For more information, contact Abigail Soto at abigail.soto@wsu.edu or 360-546-9542.



Chapter Leadership Transitions: Best Practices for Success

Please join us for PFLAG Academy Online, the e-learning program that brings free, monthly, PFLAG members-only learning opportunities with core educational programs right to your computer screen. Benefit from PFLAG National's great learning options, informed staff, and input from other participants without leaving home. All you'll need is a computer (or mobile device) and the drive to move equality forward!

Meeting Description:

Leadership turnover is an important component to keeping PFLAG chapters relevant and fresh, but leadership transitions can be a make or break point for chapters. All chapters should openly discuss the importance of leadership turnover and how it will help ensure their long term success. In this workshop we'll:

- Review the basics of PFLAG chapter leadership and best practices for leadership transition
- Explore the common challenges and obstacles that make changing leadership so hard
- Discuss best practices for leadership transitions that will help to ensure a smooth hand over of responsibilities when leadership changes
- Share personal experiences and use some real life scenarios that will leave you better prepared to tackle your chapter's next leadership transition

We will also reserve plenty of time for Q&A so bring your questions!

Register for Event: www.pflag.org/onlineacademy

Date: Thu, March 24, 2020

Time: 5:30 PM PST

Duration: 1 hour