



INDY PFLAG NEWS

AUGUST 2009

PFLAG meets the 2nd Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be Sun., August 9 from 2 to 4 pm at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in the Youth Wing (North door), just west of Meridian on 86th St.

August 9 Meeting

In August our program presenters will be Helen Harrell, host, and Carol Fischer, producer, of bloomingOUT, a radio program on WFHB 91.3 FM, 98.1 FM, 100.7 FM & 106.3 FM, or on the web 24-hours a day anywhere in the world. bloomingOUT airs from Bloomington, Indiana, every Thursday evening from 6 to 7 pm EST on WFHB, heard around the world and available via live-streaming, podcast or download anytime. For one hour each week you can listen to the latest updates in local, national and international news, a calendar of local and statewide events, interviews with community leaders, politicians, academics, students, celebrities, entertainers from around the world and just everyday folks as well. In addition good conversations are ongoing and you never know who might just stop by the studio with some exciting news to share.

Helen and Carol will speak to our group following our confidential sharing time.

Join Indiana Black Pride for 5th Annual Festival

August 8 Event Features Food, Vendors, and Entertainment

Indiana Black Pride will be hosting its 5th annual Black Pride Picnic in the Park on Sat., August 8, 2009 from noon to 8pm. The event will be held at Oscar Charleston Park located at 30th and Rural (across from Washington Park on the south side of 30th St.)

Indy PFLAG will have a booth at this fun event, so be sure to stop by.



Indy PFLAG is on Facebook!

If you're on Facebook, you can ask to be friends with "Indianapolis PFLAG." Keep up with what we're doing, chat with friends and see the latest PFLAG photos. Check it out!

Notes from Annette

As the summer rolls along, our PFLAG chapter has been busy within the community. Last month saw Indy PFLAG members manning tables at Eli Lilly and WellPoint. We spoke to classes and sat on a panel at Ivy Tech.

The next project we are preparing for is the Indianapolis "Spirit and Place" event. The theme of S&P this year is "Inspiring Places." Our November 8th meeting will reflect this topic. Using the concept of the Circle of Chairs in our meeting room, we will share with participants how we create a safe space in a church classroom.

PFLAG attempts to create a safe space by stressing empathy and confidentiality. Parents and friends are encouraged to share their stories within our Sharing Circle. By listening to others' stories, they learn that they are not alone. When I first began attending PFLAG meetings I felt as if I were the only person in the world who had a gay child. By attending meetings, I saw that my family was not any different than anyone else's family. I gained strength and saw things in a better light.

I know that November is a ways off, but I encourage you to attend this special meeting. We also ask that you invite your family and friends. There is much to be gained by attending – your story may be the one that helps other people accept their GLBT loved one.

Mark your calendars now for our Spirit & Place program titled "People Make the Place" on November 8th from 2 – 4 pm at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. This special event will be open to the public. More information to come.

We continue to collect much needed donation items for Indiana Youth Group.

Please bring your items along with you to our meeting and we'll make sure they're delivered to IYG. Thanks!

An extensive wish list can be found at <http://www.indianayouthgroup.org/donate/wishlist.php>

Indy PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is a group of people who share common experiences and provide support for each other. We listen and love. We help families have open, positive and loving relationships with GLBT children and we work for their civil and human rights.

Indy PFLAG Speakers Bureau

By Jeff Jones

The Indy PFLAG Speakers Bureau was established by the Board nearly two years ago so that all outside speaking events could be coordinated through one point of contact. Any organization, school, or company that would like to have somebody from Indy PFLAG address their group or setup an information table can click on the indypflagspeakers@yahoo.com link on our website and request someone from our pool of volunteers.

The past few months have seen many opportunities for Indy PFLAG volunteers to attend events where we can inform people about the mission of PFLAG and support the GLBT community as well as their families and friends.

April 13th, at IVY Tech's Eastside Campus, then April 14th at the Downtown Campus, Dick & Sarah Patterson, and Annette Gross spoke to Shelley Ross' Human Sexuality classes. They told their personal stories and explained the purpose of PFLAG. They handed out brochures and urged the student to visit the PFLAG website and take the "Straight for Equality" pledge.

May 16th, Annette Gross and Jan Nichols staffed an information booth at the statewide PTA conference held at the Marriott East. Jan and Annette reported more than 100 visitors to the Indy PFLAG booth and overwhelming positive reactions from the people they engaged. They passed out a lot of information and were very pleased by the affirmative attitude they encountered.

June 6th, I staffed an information booth for Indy PFLAG and Indiana Equality at the Spencer Pride Festival. The event took place on the Owen County courthouse square. There were 23 organizations represented at the festival. We had many visitors to the booth, largely thanks to a clever program the organizers implemented. They gave all the visitors to the festival a "passport" with all the booths listed by logos. In order to enter the drawing for the door prize, the visitors had to get their passport stamped at each booth. We sold a lot of PFLAG buttons and bumper stickers. I had help from Dennis Ellis, a student at Indiana University. He was very enthusiastic and was good at promoting both groups. Dennis is organizing a GLBT group on campus.

June 17th, we were invited to a "Lunch and Learn" at Lilly. Luann Conaty, Annette Gross, Sue Hazer, and I explained the purpose of PFLAG and shared our stories with those in attendance. This was a very productive event as Lilly GLEAM (their GLBT organization) offered several ideas for partnering with Indy PFLAG in order to reach out to Lilly employees who are parents of GLBT individuals. We will be remaining in contact with GLEAM leadership in order to coordinate our activities.

June 18th, I went to WellPoint's diversity event, where Indy PFLAG, IYG (Indiana Youth group), and WellPoint's Diversity Team shared an information table in the company cafeteria. Several people stopped by to ask questions and pick-up literature. The Diversity Team was giving away CD's and tickets to Indianapolis Fever games, which was a good way of drawing people to the table so we could explain the purpose of our organizations.

June 24th, Walter Vanderbush and Annette Gross participated in IVY Tech's Pride Month panel discussion. They shared their

personal stories and answered questions from people attending the event.

The people who have offered to help with the Speakers Bureau are listed here and we thank them for functioning as ambassadors for PFLAG: JoEllen Buffie, Luann Conaty, Annette Gross, Sue Hazer, Connie Horton, Mimi Jacobs, Jeff Jones, Charlene & Oran Lakin, Marcia Neff, Judy Newton, Jan Nichols, Dick & Sarah Patterson, and Walt & Patience Vanderbush.

If you would like to be on the Speakers Bureau, send an email to Jeff, our coordinator, at skyguyji@comcast.net. And many thanks, Jeff, for doing such a fantastic job managing our requests!

Wisconsin prepares for same-sex benefit registration

MADISON (WKOW) *Posted: Jul 15, 2009 7:49 PM EDT* -- On August third, same-sex couples in Wisconsin are eligible for the first time for dozens of legal benefits. It's part of the recently passed state budget. Wisconsin is the first state in the Midwest to allow these domestic partnership protections.

Anna and Stacie have been together for twelve years. They say any increased recognition by the state, is a start.

The two will go to the County Clerk's office after August third to register for the domestic partnership benefits. But with the couple's two kids, they say legalities become complicated. They've already sat down with lawyers and prepared numerous legal documents, giving each other and their kids benefits both before and after death.

Stacie says, "We had to go to court to get Anna to have any kind of rights to make decisions for the kids, hospital visitation, even her ability to attend parent teacher conferences, or pick them up from school."

The quick turnaround of the legal benefits has local lawyers on their toes.

Emily Dudak Taylor, a lawyer with the Law Center for Children and Families in Madison, says, "The first step was wading through the 600 page document, to see exactly what benefits are conveyed."

43 of the 200 benefits included in a legal marriage are provided. Some of those benefits give partners the ability to inherit from an estate without a will, some medical and visitation rights, even the opportunity to choose whether or not to donate organs.

Dudak Taylor says she'll continue to work for more rights for her clients. She's looking to the federal government for more action. She says these Wisconsin rights aren't substantially similar to marriage, but "it's a step forward, but it's nothing close to marriage."

In Dane County, registration will cost 115 dollars. You will need a valid birth certificate and proof of identification.

To talk with a parent who also has a gay son or lesbian daughter & to learn more about Indy PFLAG, please contact:
***Sarah (317) 545-7034** ***Charlene/Oran (317) 897-0126** ***info@indypflag.org**
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