



# INDY PFLAG NEWS

JULY 2009

**PFLAG meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be Sun., July 12 from 2 to 4 pm at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in the Youth Wing (North door), just west of Meridian on 86<sup>th</sup> St.**

## July 12 Meeting

Our July meeting will be an open discussion. Join us as we share our personal stories to support, educate and advocate for our LGBT loved ones and families. Each person who attends Indy PFLAG meetings has the right to expect, and the responsibility to extend, openness and confidentiality. PFLAG meetings are a safe place to share feelings and discuss problems. The identities of all persons and what is said at the meetings are kept strictly confidential.

## **Indy PFLAG Scholarship - 2009**

*The Indianapolis PFLAG Chapter is pleased to be able to offer a \$500 scholarship for the 2009 - 2010 academic year. This scholarship is available to any student who has been accepted to an accredited institution of higher education or to a vocational institution. The application deadline is July 15, 2009. The award will be paid to the recipient by September 1, 2009, after receipt of proof of enrollment.*

**In order to be eligible for these funds, you must meet the following requirements:**

- Be a resident of Indiana
- Be a graduating high school senior or hold a high school diploma or a GED
- Self identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender
- Demonstrate an interest in service to the LGBT community
- Have been accepted to an accredited institution of higher education or to a vocational institution.

**You must provide the following documents:**

- Completed scholarship application form
- Two letters of recommendation
- An essay (no more than 2 pages) discussing either your life as an LGBT student or how you have been involved in the LGBT community

Please send your completed application packet to the following address postmarked **no later than July 15, 2009**: Indianapolis PFLAG Scholarship P. O. Box 441633, Indianapolis, IN 46244-1633. All candidates will be notified of the outcome of their applications by August 15, 2009.

**Forms can be accessed via our website:**

[www.indypflag.org/Scholarship/Scholarship.htm](http://www.indypflag.org/Scholarship/Scholarship.htm)

## Notes from Annette

Well, Indy Pride has come and gone. Our chapter had a fabulous turnout! We must have had at least 30+ people marching with us behind our banner. As I've said before, the crowd cheered us on and were so happy to see us! Our group handed out PFLAG rainbow leis to onlookers as we marched down Mass Avenue!

I think we had over 500 people come to our booth. We had 300 flip-flops – asking President Obama to repeal DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act) – and 300 people signed them. I think we had over 200 more people stop by to ask questions, pick up literature, and buy buttons and bumper stickers.

One of the most important things that we can do as PFLAG members is tell our stories. We tell our stories to anyone who will listen to us. We want people to realize that our families are like anyone's families. We love and support our GLBT children. When we sent away the flip-flops to President Obama, we also included pages from our Family Scrapbook. We wanted him to see, too, that our families are just like his.

We have had many opportunities lately to tell our stories. Indy PFLAG members recently spoke to classes at Ivy Tech and IUPUI. We were represented at the State PTA Conference, State School Counselors Conference, as well as at Eli Lilly and Wellpoint. We were well-received at all of these events.

If you would like to be among those who go into the community to represent Indy PFLAG, please let us know. You will not have to go alone – a seasoned PFLAG member will go with you. It's very gratifying to speak to groups of people and spread the word. Also, plan on joining us next year as we march in the Pride Parade. There is strength in numbers and we welcome every PFLAG member, along with Straight Allies!



*We had a few special orders for t-shirts at PRIDE, so did a small re-order. If you missed out the first time, you now have a second chance. Because we had a smaller order this time, the price now is \$20.*

*We have a couple of each size.*

*Call Sarah, 545-7034*

**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.**

### **Why should you be a member of PFLAG?**

*With its unique family voice, PFLAG is helping create a safe and just world in ways nobody else can. We encourage you to join in taking an active role.*

Our members come from all walks of life. We are straight, we are gay and we are bisexual. We are transgendered. We are moms and dads, siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends, children and allies. We come from large cities and small towns. We live in rural areas. We are people of color. We come from all economic backgrounds. We come from all faith traditions. We are disabled. We are youth and we are elderly. Our membership and our leadership are diverse, but what we have in common is our commitment to grow beyond false and harmful perceptions of GLBT people, to educate our communities, and to stand up for full equal rights and protections for GLBT people.

Everyone who shares PFLAG's vision is welcome to join us in our work. You can join PFLAG as a chapter member through your local affiliate or as an at-large member through our National office. Your financial support makes PFLAG's work possible. As a chapter member you can also become engaged in the vital work of providing support, education and advocacy in your community. Even if you're not sure that you need PFLAG, remember that PFLAG NEEDS YOU!

### **New employment bill includes sexual orientation and gender identity**

(Washington) Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) announced the introduction of a bill Wednesday (6.25.2009) that would make workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity illegal.

This revised version of the Employment Nondiscrimination Act includes gender and has a better chance of passing, Frank said, because activists have been lobbying for the bill "in the right way." The bill has 114 co-sponsors, including Frank and openly gay members Tammy Baldwin and Jared Polis; the 2007 gender-inclusive bill had 62.

When the House dropped gender protections in 2007 over the objections of activists, the bill passed - but the Senate took no action. So far, there is no comparable Senate bill, though Frank told the Advocate he was hopeful that one would be introduced there.

If ENDA passes, it would become the first-ever ban on employment discrimination of LBGT people, who are frequently discriminated against in hiring, firing, promotion and compensation decisions.

*By Jennifer Vanasco, editor in chief, 365gay.com*

### **White House: Census to better count gay couples**

(Washington) The White House said Friday it is working to ensure the 2010 census produces a better count of same-sex couples, last week's second policy announcement aimed at dampening rising anger in the gay community toward President Barack Obama.

"The president and the administration are committed to a fair and accurate count of all Americans," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said. "We're in the midst of determining the best way to ensure that gay and lesbian couples are accurately counted."

It is too late to change the language for the 2010 census survey, which does not include a specific box for same-sex marriages, civil unions or gay partnerships. That survey has already gone to Congress, with only boxes for "husband," "wife" and "unmarried partner," White House spokesman Ben LaBolt said.

So the administration is changing the census' tabulation software to make needed changes in how the incoming data is analyzed and summarized. Formerly, if two people in one household checked "husband," the data would be rejected. That will change, LaBolt said.

That means the count of same-sex couples won't be comprehensive - but it will be better than before, he said. The Census Bureau has previously collected data on same-sex marriages, but not released it when it gives out all the other detailed demographic information from the decennial count, he said. Now it will be released.

*By The Associated Press, 06.22.2009 4:32pm EDT*

### **Most Gays Are Spiritual**

Six in 10 gays and lesbians say that faith is an important part of their lives, according to a Christian research group. Conversely, about 72% of straight adults describe their faith as being an integral part of their lives.

"People who portray gay adults as godless, hedonistic Christian-bashers are not working with the facts," said George Barna of the Barna Group, which conducted the study. "A substantial majority of gays cite their faith as a central facet of their life, consider themselves to be Christian, and claim to have some type of meaningful personal commitment to Jesus Christ active in their life today."

The study's authors wrote that the findings were "surprising." In the wake of those controversies and the spotlight aimed at gays, Americans have developed numerous assumptions about the lives of the homosexual population."

Additionally, about 60% of straight Christians said they were completely devoted to their faith, compared to 40% of gay responders identifying as Christian. The study also revealed that straight adults were nearly twice as likely as gays to qualify as born-again Christians (47% compared to 27%, respectively).

In the study, conducted between January 2007 and November 2008 by phone interviews, researchers asked 9,232 people about their sexual orientation.

*By Michelle Garcia, Advocate.com*

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**  
**Indianapolis PFLAG, P.O. Box 441633, Indianapolis IN 46244-1633**                      **www.indypflag.org**