



INDY PFLAG NEWS

JUNE 2011

PFLAG meets the 2nd Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be June 12 from 2 to 4 pm at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Room W125 (West Entrance 4), just west of Meridian on 86th St

June 12 meeting

Summer Kickoff meeting with legal experts:

Brita Horvath and Carl Pebworth of Baker & Daniels will talk about diversity and the legal profession. They will explain Baker & Daniels' diversity program generally and LGBT efforts specifically, including their participation in the Human Rights Campaign Corporate Equality Index. They will also speak on the firm's Pro Bono & Public Interest efforts which include the development of an advocacy platform for the LGBT individuals which includes support from organizations that serve the LGBT community.

Brita Horvath, as Diversity and Pro Bono Manager, manages all aspects of Baker & Daniels' diversity and pro bono programs. She also develops initiatives and strategies to advance the firm's ongoing commitment in both arenas. Brita works closely with diversity and pro bono chairs and committee members, as well as with practice groups, recruitment and other committees, and the administrative department.

Carl Pebworth chairs Baker & Daniels' standing committee on pro bono and public service and directs Baker & Daniels pro bono and public interest program. He also serves on the Indiana Pro Bono Commission.

This is sure to be a highly informative discussion, so please bring your legal questions and join us!

Thanks, Denny!

A long overdue thank you is extended to Denny Nichols, who has been more than generous in providing print materials for Indy PFLAG. Many of us like to support those who support us, and we can support Denny at

Minuteman Press

2444 East Stop 11 Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46227

Phone: 317-881-0224

<http://indysouth.minutemanpress.com/index.htm>

Notes from Annette

On Saturday, May 11, 2011, 25 members of PFLAG all throughout Indiana came together in Indianapolis for a State Conference. Our speakers reflected the diversity of the GLBT community – they spoke about transgender issues, youth, Straight Allies, and how to talk to people about the Marriage Discrimination Amendment.

The day began at 9:00 with a light breakfast and coffee. Then everyone introduced themselves and told us which chapter they

belong to. At that point, Steve Freeman, our moderator extraordinaire, introduced the first speaker, Graham Brinklow from Indiana Youth Group. Graham explained what IYG is and what services they provide to the youth in Indiana. Graham also travels to schools throughout Indiana, working to establish Gay/Straight Alliances.

Our next two speakers informed us about transgender issues. Shannon Garcia, president of TransYouth Family Allies (TYFA), shared her family story with us and explained the purpose and mission of TYFA. We learned what happens when a young child realizes they were born in the wrong body and how they help families all across the country. Vivian Bengel, president of Indiana Transgender Rights Advocacy Alliance (INTRAA) taught us what the general facets of gender identity are. Her explanations were easy to understand and we came away with a new appreciation of gender identity.

At that point, we broke for lunch. After a lunch of sandwiches, fruit and cookies, we heard from our next speaker, Brooke Smith from National PFLAG. Brooke gave us talking points so we can speak to people in the coming 42 months about the Marriage Discrimination Amendment. She also gave us pointers on how to recruit Straight Allies, which is also important in winning the fight for equality.

Our last speaker was Peter Ji, a professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Peter teaches a course called "Being a Straight Ally to the LGBT Community." He presented a power-point presentation about his course and showed how he taught his students to develop the attitudes, skills, and knowledge needed to be active supporters of, and advocates for, the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

At the end of the conference, we heard from Dan Tepfer, our PFLAG Region Advisor. Dan invited all of the participants to the PFLAG National Convention in Washington, D.C. in November, and urged other chapters to consider hosting a state conference next year.

The Evaluation Forms we received at the end of the conference reflected that everyone had a good time, enjoyed the speakers and learned a lot. In particular, participants enjoyed meeting members of other chapters.

This conference could not have taken place without the hard work of a lot of people. Our committee consisted of me and my husband Allan, Colleen and Steve Freeman, Jan and Denny Nichols, Anne and Alan Dinner, and Mimi Jacobs. Also thanks to Starbucks for their donation of coffee, Marsh Supermarkets for their donation of two gift cards, and Denny Nichols for printing. Thank you also to Bagel Fair for delicious bagels and Life Journey Church for renting us the meeting space.

This is the first State Conference that I've actively worked on. It was wonderful to work with so many great people and I'm glad we were able to bring people from throughout Indiana together for education and friendship.

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.

Circle City IN Pride Parade and Festival- June 11

Location: American Legion Mall & Veteran's Memorial Plaza

Entrance Plaza: Michigan Street

Time: 11am-7pm

Circle City IN Pride is the largest pride festival in Indiana. Organized by Indy Pride, Inc., a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit corporation, Circle City IN Pride is a weeklong celebration for everyone. From the Community Picnic and Pride Skate on Sunday, June 5th through the Cadillac Barbie Pride Parade and IN Pride Festival on Saturday, June 11th, there is something happening every day and for every aspect of our community

Find the complete calendar of events at:

<http://www.indyprideinc.com/>

**As always, Indy PFLAG will march in the parade and staff a booth at the event.*

Parade participants will meet at the corner of Mass Avenue and College Avenue around 9:30 am. **The Parade will begin at 10:00 a.m.** I hope as many of you as possible can join us as we march! You can also bring your partners, children, friends, etc. We will march from Mass Avenue to the American Legion Mall & Veteran's Memorial Plaza. If you've never done it before, it's a great experience! So many parade-watchers cheer us as we march down the street!

Please contact Annette at indyflag@gmail.com if you can volunteer at the booth.

Indy PFLAG Board Meeting Report

The 2011 slate of officers was approved at the annual board meeting as the following:

President – Jan Nichols

Secretary – Diana Roberts

Treasurer – Colleen Freeman

Congratulations to our officers and thanks to those who attended and enjoyed a delicious meal along with chapter business. Special thanks to Sue Hazer who provided many years service as Indy PFLAG's Treasurer. We all do what we can and Sue has gone above and beyond the duties required of her position for a long time now. *We are all very grateful, Sue!*

ARTISTS LAUNCH ONLINE ANTI-BULLYING PROJECT

Artists Linda Regula and Paul Richmond are launching an online project dedicated to giving the victims of bullying a voice through the arts. The You Will Rise Project will provide a multimedia showcase for drawings, paintings, sculptures, videos, poetry, and other creative expressions by people of all ages, representing their experiences with bullies.

Visit www.youwillriseproject.blogspot.com/ for more.

Indy PFLAG Scholarship – Apply Now!

The Indianapolis PFLAG Chapter is pleased to be able to offer at least one \$500 scholarship for the upcoming academic year. These scholarships are 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**. The award will be paid to the recipient by September 1, 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:**

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.

You can find applications and recommendation forms online at <http://indyflag.org/Scholarship/Scholarship.htm> If you have any questions, e-mail info@indyflag.org.

Sports: 25 Coming Out Stories in 2011

Even though professional sports seems to be one of the last places where few gay people can exist openly, many in the world of athletics are paving a path for the first major professional athlete to come out.

Editors of the website *Outsports* took a look back over the past five months, culminating in a list of at least 25 sports figures -- athletes, coaches, journalists, and executives -- who have come out to the media. Additionally, numerous professional athletes, including Charles Barkley and Grant Hill, have voiced their support of gay rights. *Posted on*

Advocate.com:

[For the full list, visit Outsports.](#)

To talk with a parent who also has a gay son or lesbian daughter & to learn more about Indy PFLAG, please contact:

***Annette (317) 872-1385**

***Charlene/Oran (317) 897-0126**

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Indianapolis PFLAG

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