



INDY PFLAG NEWS

JANUARY 2012

PFLAG meets the 2nd Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be **January 8 from 2 to 4 pm** at **Broadway United Methodist Church, 609 E. 29th Street, Indianapolis IN 46205 (29th St. Entrance)**

January 8 meeting

Our speaker for January 8 will be
Alice Hoenigman.

Alice is a 2004 graduate of the University of Dayton. She has lived in Indianapolis for 6 years and is a graduate student at IUPUI. Her areas of interests are politics, advocacy and sports. She is going to talk about LGBT issues in the workplace.

Alice's presentation will follow our confidential sharing time. Please join us!

We team up to stop bullying

On December 12, Indianapolis PFLAG, in collaboration with PNC Bank and the Immigrant Welcome Center, showed the film "Bullied" at the John H. Boner Community Center. Almost 50 people attended. We had 5 panelists - Graham Brinklow from Indiana Youth Group; Kyle Casteel, a teenager who attends IYG; Jamie Martindale, advisor of the Gay-Straight Alliance at Pike High School; Lynn A. Highley, MSW, a social worker; and Travis Brown aka Mr. MOJO, who speaks to youth across the country about bullying.

If you would like to see some photos of the event, go to the Indianapolis PFLAG Facebook page to view them.

Wanted – Indy PFLAG Newsletter Editor

- Composes our newsletter on a quarterly basis and distributes the newsletter to our membership by email
- Sends a monthly email reminder to our members about meetings/programs
- Good computer/newsletter layout skills required

If you would like to become our newsletter editor, please contact Marcia at marcia.neff@gmail.com



Two Women Share First Kiss at Navy Ship's Homecoming

Another victory for those who pushed to repeal the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law emerged in December 2011 as a same-sex couple took part in the coveted "first kiss" tradition following a Navy ship's homecoming.

As the USS Oak Hill docked in Virginia Beach, Citlalic Snell stood on *terra firma*, anxiously awaiting her girlfriend Marissa Gaeta's arrival. The couple was set to share the traditional first kiss as the sailors disembarked, marking the first time a gay or lesbian couple has taken such an honor. Of course, this might sound like a well-timed publicity stunt, considering DADT's repeal just three months ago. But alas, it was not: the couple won the opportunity in a raffle. The "first kiss" is often given out in a raffle or competition to a fleet of sailors arriving home. It's a Navy tradition that Gaeta could now compete for.

You can see them share their reaction to the media coverage of the first kiss at

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_tmig8PxAw

The speech from Zach Wahls in which the Iowa college student urged the state legislature to reject a constitutional amendment that would deny marriage equality to his lesbian mothers has topped the list of the most watched political videos on YouTube in 2011, with 18.3 million views. You can watch Zach's extraordinary testimony here:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSQOK2Vuf9Q&feature=player_embedded

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.

PFLAG National Statement on Barney Frank's Decision to Leave Congress at the End of Term

PFLAG National would like to thank Congressman Barney Frank for his years of commitment and support to advancing equality through family acceptance, community education and advocacy.

As a member of Congress for nearly 30 years, Rep. Barney Frank has been a leader in advocating for the rights of LGBT people. He supported key pieces of legislation, including the repeal of *Don't Ask, Don't Tell*, and provided a powerful role model for other LGBT people to get involved in all levels of government and civic engagement. As the first openly gay member of Congress, he has paved the way for leaders like Tammy Baldwin, Jared Polis, and David Cicilline.

PFLAG National was honored to have him join us at our 2011 Convention, where he spoke about the power of PFLAG and family acceptance, both of which he experienced personally through his late mother, Elsie Frank, one of the founders of Greater Boston PFLAG.

The power of family acceptance and the unique voice it has in LGBT advocacy is just one of Rep. Frank's legacies from his years of service to our country. We will miss his strong voice at the Congressional level in support of equality, but we look forward to continuing the work we started together, including passing a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in the workplace, when Rep. Frank leaves office.

Indianapolis PFLAG has a Facebook page. It's under "Indianapolis PFLAG." This page informs people of the activities of our chapter and about our monthly meetings. Check it often!

Join, Renew Your Membership or Make a Donation to Indy PFLAG

Your membership dues allow us to spread helpful information to more than 300 people, schools and agencies each month through our education, outreach and advocacy efforts.

Your dues and donations to Indy PFLAG provide the resources we need to protect more kids, save more families, and change more hearts and minds.

Click <http://www.indypflag.org/Form.php> to join, renew or donate online using PayPal. PFLAG is a tax-exempt 501c3 organization.

Policy Matters: A Year in Review

It's hard to believe that this busy and productive year is finally coming to a close! Throughout the tumultuous ups and downs of these past twelve months, PFLAG National has covered dozens of important local, state, and federal headlines on the blog series called "Policy Matters." Many of you already know that Policy Matters is a blog series which summarizes the most recent breaking headlines on all things related to LGBT policy and answers questions from PFLAG members with in-depth answers. The National blog also includes breaking news, information on new PFLAG National events, and special interest articles, like this weekend's post which reported on the discrimination facing an HIV-positive student in Pennsylvania.

Here are the top "Policy Matters" headlines for 2011:

January 11, 2011: President Obama Signs DADT Repeal

February 1, 2011: Veteran LGBT Advocate Appointed to U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

April 12, 2011: Secretary Sebelius Announces Important Health Improvements

June 14, 2011: Illinois Begins Issuing Civil Union Licenses; Williams Institute Studies LGBT Employment Discrimination

June 28, 2011: NY Senate Passes Marriage Equality Bill; CA Prop. 8 Ruling Upheld

July 11, 2011: Federal Health Survey to Cover Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity; CA LGBT History Bill Passed

July 26, 2011: LGBT Hate Crime Increases; Obama Supports Respect for Marriage Act

September 19, 2011: Transgender Woman Attacked in McDonalds; NCAA Adopts New Transgender Athlete Policy

October 4, 2011: Social Security Ends Gender "No-Match" Letters; Revised "Standards of Care" for Transgender Individuals

October 28, 2011: SLDN to Sue Over Military Benefits for Spouses of Gay Troops; No Child Left Behind Act and Anti-Bullying Language

November 15, 2011: Medical Schools Admit Neglect on LGBT Health Issues; New Campaign Strategy for Marriage Equality

December 1, 2011: Gender Identity Bill Signed in Massachusetts; Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act Re-Introduced to Congress

Visit and subscribe to PFLAG National's Blog at <http://blog.pflag.org/> today and make a resolution to be on top of the latest headlines during the New Year.

You can find a good list of Indianapolis area GLBT resources at

<http://www.gavindy.com/page18.php>

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

Indianapolis PFLAG

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