

Please See Page 4  
for Important Meeting Info!



**Where All Families Matter.**



**www.PFLAGPgh.org**

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# The Pittsburgh PFLAGer

# PFLAG Pittsburgh's Monthly Newsletter

## Volume 19, Number 01

### Inside Our October 2016 Edition of the Pittsburgh PFLAGer:

- A Letter from Our President
- Meet Our New Board
- About PFLAG Academy Webinar
- Western PA PFLAG Chapter Mtg.
- Membership Drive
- National Coming Out Day
- Edie Windsor Remarries
- Groundbreaking Cali. Law
- Trans Youth & Military Families
- Current Events
- **AND MORE!**

### Our Next Meeting:

**Sunday, October 9, 2016**

#### *Meeting Information:*

- 2:00PM Meeting Begins
- 2:15-3:30PM Small Group Sessions
- 3:45-4:30PM Educational Program

Third Presbyterian Church  
5701 Fifth Ave.  
Fifth & Negley Aves. 15232

#### **Educational Program:**

**fAe Gibson,**  
Local Trans Advocate

#### **PFLAG VISION:**

PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

#### **PFLAG MISSION:**

By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision through:

- Support for families, allies and people who are LGBTQ
- Education for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ
- Advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ

**Contact Info:**

**Website:**

[www.PFLAGPgh.org](http://www.PFLAGPgh.org)

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/PFLAGPgh](http://www.facebook.com/PFLAGPgh)

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<http://twitter.com/PFLAGPgh>

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Pittsburgh, PA 15206



**Chapter Officials:**

**President:**

Mitchell Hortert

**Treasurer:**

Kelley Moten

**Secretary**

Jason Lucarelli

**Advocacy Chairpersons:**

Moira Myers

**Support Chairperson:**

Norman Brown

**Education Chairperson:**

Brandon Harper

**Speaker's Bureau**

Donni Smith

**Chapter Librarian:**

Pam Richards

**At-Large:**

Allen Wolk & Elaine Cummings

**Snacks**

One simple way to help out at PFLAG Pgh is to bring a snack! It doesn't have to be a four-course dinner, just a snack that you'd like to share with the group! Any contributions are greatly appreciated.

**Contributions?**

Have a suggestion for the newsletter? Please respond to one of our emails with your ideas! We are always looking to provide the latest information to our chapter members and look forward to serving your needs in the future!

**A Minute with Mitch:**  
*A Letter from the President....*

Dear Fellow PFLAGers,

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Mitchell Hortert and I have the honor and privilege of being the newly elected president for PFLAG Pittsburgh. Since this is my first letter as president, I wanted to take an opportunity to provide a little bit of background information about myself. My hope is that over the next few years, I get the chance to meet and learn more about each of you.

Prior to being elected to president, I had the honor of serving as our chapter secretary since 2013. I also edit the newsletter and update our website. Before arriving at PFLAG Pittsburgh in 2013, I was the interim president of PFLAG Butler and their Director of Communications. In addition to PFLAG Pittsburgh, I am also on the board of the non-profit, Proud Haven.

As I assume this new role, I want to take a moment to thank PFLAG Pittsburgh's previous president, Kelley Moten. Kelley worked tirelessly to fulfill her duties as president as well as continue on with the three pillared mission of PFLAG Pittsburgh: education, advocacy, and support. Kelley won't be leaving us though- she is now our newly elected treasurer and will continue to guide and support our chapter in this new role.

As we begin a new fiscal year here at PFLAG Pittsburgh, it is my hope that we will continue on with that drive our previous presidents have done over the past 25 years: to provide support, education, and advocacy to our communities and neighborhoods on behalf of the members, parents, friends, and allies of the LGBTQ+ community.

I look forward to working on this with our newly elected board of directors as well as with each and every single one of you. Without you: our readers, members, supporters and friends- we would not be in existence today.

Sincerely,

*Mitch Hortert*

President of PFLAG Pittsburgh



# PFLAG Pittsburgh News



## PFLAG Board Membership/Officers

It is with great pride that PFLAG Pittsburgh announces their newly elected board of directors for the next two years:

**President:**

Mitchell Hortert

**Treasurer:**

Kelley Moten

**Secretary**

Jason Lucarelli

**Advocacy Chairpersons:**

Moira Myers

**At-Large:**

Allen Wolk & Elaine Cummings

**Support Chairperson:**

Norman Brown

**Education Chairperson:**

Brandon Harper

**Speaker's Bureau:**

Donni Smith

**Chapter Librarian:**

Pam Richards



## About PFLAG Academy Online:

PFLAG Academy Online brings free, monthly, PFLAG members-only training opportunities with core educational programs right to your computer screen. Benefit from PFLAG'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!

In the coming months, be on the lookout for brand new sessions, including one on conflict resolution as well as core-skill building sessions on creating a thriving chapter, support group facilitation, and more! You may also email [info@pflag.org](mailto:info@pflag.org) or your [Field Manager](#) for more details about how to access past sessions on-demand so you can use PFLAG Academy Online as a resource for developing the leadership pipeline for your chapter.

**Additional Information:**

- [ReadyTalk Registration Information](#)
- [How do I know that my computer will be able to connect?](#)
- [Other Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) about webinars.](#)

## Western Pennsylvania PFLAG Chapters

The Western Pennsylvania PFLAG chapters are scheduled to meet again on October 15, 2016! Representatives from Butler, Greensburg, Meadville, and Pittsburgh PFLAG Chapters as well as Jamie Curtis from PFLAG National will be present for the four-hour long meeting that begins at 2pm.

Since the last meeting in 2013, Western Pennsylvania has seen two chapters close (Erie, New Castle) and there is a group working to start a chapter (Meadville). It is important to note that you do not have to be a chapter leader to attend these meetings. If you would like to be involved, please email our chapter President and Coordinator the Western Pennsylvania, Mitch at [MRHortert@gmail.com](mailto:MRHortert@gmail.com).



**IMPORTANT MEETING INFORMATION:  
Sunday, October 9, 2016**

Each year, our October meeting overlaps and falls on the same day as the free admission to the Pittsburgh Zoo Day. If you plan to attend our monthly meeting, we encourage that you leave home earlier than usual because the traffic conditions will be drastically different than most other chapter meeting Sundays. For more information about the event at the zoo, you may visit:

<http://www.pittsburghzoo.org/Event.aspx?id=4429&sd=10/5/2016&ed=10/5/2018&tp=&loc=&kw=>

**ADVOCACY ALERT!**

By Moira Myers, PFLAG Pgh Advocacy Chair

The City of Butler has been considering a non-discrimination ordinance for the past four months. At the last meeting Councilwoman Kline said that they should put the ordinance up for vote at the next council meeting on October 27th. Below are the names, telephone numbers, and emails of each council person. Please email them and ask for them to vote for the ordinance. I have provided a simple letter asking for them to vote. If you feel the need to create your own letter, be civil. When the City of Butler was considering the ordinance five years ago, a person was aggressive when corresponding with the council and turned a yes to a no.

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City Mayor

Thomas P. Donaldson  
 [\(724\) 285.4124 ext. 206](tel:(724)285.4124)  
Fax:  [\(724\) 285-6880](tel:(724)285-6880)  
[citymayor@zoominternet.net](mailto:citymayor@zoominternet.net)

City Council Members:

Michael E. Walter  
Director of Accounts and Finance  
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[michaelwalter@zoominternet.net](mailto:michaelwalter@zoominternet.net)

Kathy Kline  
Director of Public Safety  
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Kenneth E. Bonus  
Director of Streets & Public Improvements  
 [\(724\) 285-4124 ext. 355](tel:(724)285-4124)  
[kenny@bonusaccounting.com](mailto:kenny@bonusaccounting.com)

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Dear [Name]

Thank you for your consideration of the non-discrimination ordinance. Show the rest of the state and the country that the City of Butler is an inclusive area where all are welcome. Vote for making the non-discrimination clause law.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
<Insert YOUR Name Here>

**National Coming Out Day and Chipotle!**

Next Tuesday, October 11 is National Coming Out Day, a day to celebrate coming out and to raise awareness of the LGBTQ+ community and civil rights movement. Visit any Pittsburgh area Chipotle on this day, show the cashier the flyer (in hand or on a mobile device) or just tell the cashier – no paperwork needed. 50% of the proceeds will be donated to the Delta Foundation of Pittsburgh to help support their work to increase the awareness and visibility of the LGBTQ+ community in the Pittsburgh region.

For a list of Pittsburgh Chipotle locations, visit [goo.gl/tLvyZA](http://goo.gl/tLvyZA)

A copy of the flier can be found on the next page.

# CAUSE AN EFFECT



Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support The Delta Foundation of Pittsburgh. Come in to **any Greater Pittsburgh Area Chipotle location on Tuesday, October 11th** between **11:00am** and **10:00pm**. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 50% of the proceeds will be donated to The Delta Foundation of Pittsburgh.



Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count.

## National Coming Out Day

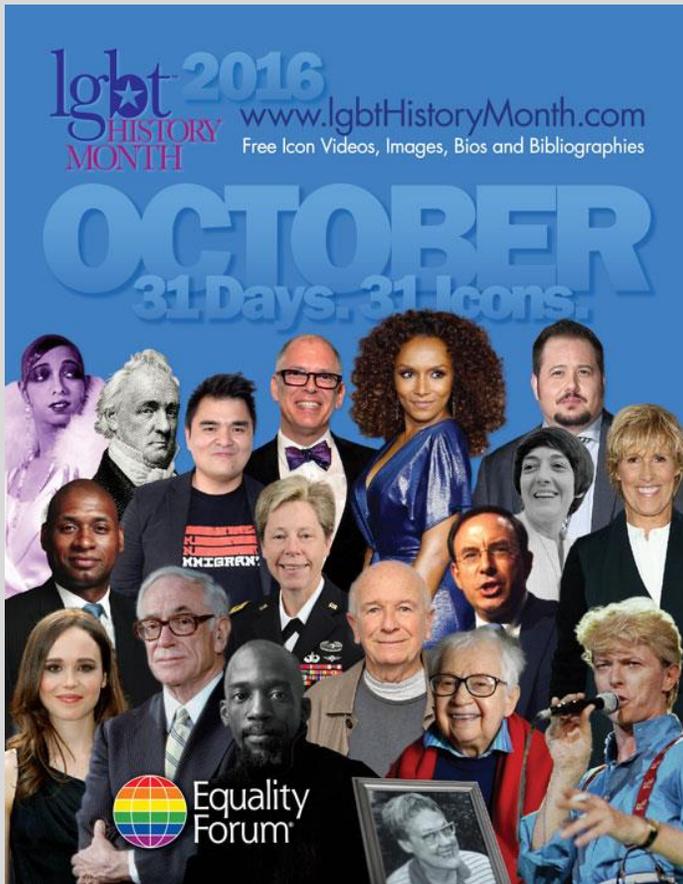
*From the HRC*

Every year on National Coming Out Day, we celebrate coming out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) or as an ally. On Oct. 11, 2016, we will mark the 28th anniversary of National Coming Out Day.

28 years ago, on the anniversary of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, we first observed National Coming Out Day as a reminder that one of our most basic tools is the power of coming out. One out of every two Americans has someone close to them who is gay or lesbian. For transgender people, that number is only one in 10.

Coming out **STILL MATTERS**. When people know someone who is LGBTQ, they are far more likely to support equality under the law. Beyond that, our stories can be powerful to each other. Every person who speaks up changes more hearts and minds, and creates new advocates for equality. For more great resources, please visit the following website:

<http://www.hrc.org/resources/entry/national-coming-out-day>



## LGBTQ History Month

Did you know that October is LGBTQ History month? In 1994, Rodney Wilson, a Missouri high school teacher, believed a month should be dedicated to the celebration and teaching of gay and lesbian history, and gathered other teachers and community leaders. They selected October because public schools are in session and existing traditions, such as Coming Out Day (October 11), occur that month.

Gay and Lesbian History Month were endorsed by GLAAD, the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the National Education Association and other national organizations. In 2006 Equality Forum assumed responsibility for providing content, promotion and resources for LGBT History Month.

The LGBT community is the only community worldwide that is not taught its history at home, in public schools or in religious institutions. LGBT History Month provides role models, builds community and makes the civil rights statement about our extraordinary national and international contributions.

For more information, please visit:

<http://lgbthistorymonth.com/>

## Our Annual Membership Drive...

Did you know that October beings a new fiscal year for PFLAG Pittsburgh? As a nonprofit organization, we are in existence due to the generous donations that you provide to us. One way you can give is by renewing your membership with PFLAG Pittsburgh. You can do this several ways. One is by going on to our website (<http://www.pflagpgh.org>) and utilizing the payment options on our homepage. You may also make a donation at one of our monthly meetings. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated and we thank you for all that you do for us whether it is monetary or by your generous volunteerism. Here at PFLAG Pittsburgh, we greatly appreciate YOU!

# LGBTQ+ Stories:

## From Across the Globe to Around the Corner

### DOMA Plaintiff Edie Windsor Remarries

By Trudy Ring of [The Advocate](#)

**Edie Windsor**, the lesbian widow who brought the lawsuit that gutted the Defense of Marriage Act, making federal government recognition of same-sex marriages possible, has gotten married again.

Windsor, 87, married Judith Kasen, 51, at New York City Hall Monday, *The New York Times* reported Friday. The women had an "understated ceremony," the *Times* notes, with a single witness, Danielle Reda, described as Kasen's best friend.

Kasen had seen Windsor at numerous LGBT rights events and tried to flirt with her with getting any results. But Windsor finally agreed to go on a date with her late last year — to a Hanukkah party hosted by Windsor's attorney in the DOMA case, Roberta Kaplan. Then "a romance blossomed," the *Times* reports.

"I was empty and then this woman walked into my life," Windsor told the newspaper. "I didn't think it would happen again and it did. She is it."

Windsor's first marriage was to Thea Spyer. They became partners in the 1960s and were finally able to marry in Canada in 2007. But the U.S. did not recognize their marriage, with the result that when Spyer died two years later, Windsor owed \$363,000 in estate taxes — which she would not have owed if she had been married to a man.

Windsor sued the federal government for a refund and the case went all the way to the Supreme Court, which in the 2013 decision *Windsor v. U.S.* struck down the portion of DOMA preventing federal recognition of same-sex marriages. The ruling paved the way for other marriage equality victories.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.advocate.com/marriage-equality/2016/10/01/doma-plaintiff-edie-windsor-remarries>



### Roy Moore, Alabama Chief Justice, Suspended Over Gay Marriage Order

By Campbell Robertson of [The New York Times](#)

Nine months after instructing Alabama's probate judges to defy federal court orders on [same-sex marriage](#), Roy S. Moore, the chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, was suspended on Friday for the remainder of his term for violating the state's canon of judicial ethics.

It was the second time in his contentious career that Judge Moore, an outspoken conservative, was removed as chief justice, and it followed his most recent star turn in the nation's culture wars.

The suspension was imposed by the state's [Court of the Judiciary](#), a nine-member body of selected judges, lawyers and others, which found Judge Moore guilty on six charges. While the court did not take him off the bench entirely, [as it did in 2003](#) after he defied [orders](#) to remove a giant Ten Commandments monument from the state judicial building, it effectively ended his state judicial career. His term ends in 2019, and Judge Moore, 69, will be barred by law from running for a judicial position again because of his age.

The court said in its decision that most, but not all, of its members had supported fully removing Judge Moore from the bench, but removal requires a unanimous vote. The decision to suspend him, the court said, was unanimous.

The court found that the "clear purpose" of Judge Moore's [January order](#) to the state's 68 probate judges to refuse to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, which he called simply a "status update" on the legal situation, was "to order and direct the probate judges, most of whom had never been admitted to practice law in Alabama, to stop complying with binding federal law."

To read more, please visit: <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/01/us/roy-moore-alabama-chief-justice.html? r=0>

## California Adopts Groundbreaking All-Gender Restroom Access Law

By Trudy Ring of [The Advocate](#)

California today became the first state in the nation to adopt legislation requiring that all single-occupancy restrooms in California businesses, government buildings, and other places of public accommodation be open to all genders.

Gov. Jerry Brown today signed the legislation, Assembly Bill 1732, into law, as it had been approved by both the state Assembly and Senate. It will take effect March 1, giving the Golden State “the nation’s most progressive restroom access law,” notes a [press release](#) from the Transgender Law Center.

Several cities have such laws, according to the legal group, including Philadelphia, Austin, Seattle, San Francisco, New York City, Washington, D.C., and Santa Fe, N.M. Many colleges and universities, including the University of California system, also have similar policies, and some private businesses have put inclusive measures in place — management of the Sacramento Kings NBA team [recently announced](#) that the team’s new stadium, the Golden 1 Center, will include all-gender restrooms, and Target [is putting gender-neutral facilities](#) in all its stores. But California has the first statewide law.

“California is charting a new course for equality,” [Assemblyman Phil Ting](#), the bill’s author, said in the press release. “Restricting access to single-user restrooms by gender defies common sense and disproportionately burdens the LGBT community, women, and parents or caretakers of dependents of the opposite gender. Bathroom access is a biological need. This law will ensure more safety, fairness, and convenience ... for everyone.”

The legislation won praise from activists for transgender equality and women’s rights. “This law is a simple measure that will make everyone’s lives easier,” said Kris Hayashi, executive director of the Transgender Law Center. “Having restrooms open to all genders will mean less hassle for everyone going about their day and will allow people who don’t fit neatly into expectations of what it looks like to be male or female to use the restroom without fear of harassment.”

One such person, Sara Rosenfeld, had spoken at a press conference in support of the legislation and commented further in the law group’s press release. “For my whole life, public restrooms have been places of fear, anxiety, and danger for me — just because I don’t fit people’s expectations of what a woman should look like,” said Sara Rosenfeld, a 44-year-old Berkeley resident. “As a queer, black, more masculine-looking woman, I am constantly questioned and harassed when I use the bathroom. AB 1732 is a simple but important law that would help cut down on the fear and harassment I face every day.”

To read more, please visit: <http://www.advocate.com/politics/2016/9/29/california-adopts-groundbreaking-all-gender-restroom-access-law>



## New Policy Brings Relief to Transgender Youth in Military Families

By Ben Finley, *Associated Press*

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Like many [transgender](#) teens, Jenn Brewer faced bullying when she came out. Some classmates called her “tranny,” and a few teachers refused to address the 13-year-old by anything other than her male birth name, she said.

But she and her family found that the biggest difficulty came from her father’s employer: the U.S. [military](#). Jenn’s father is an Army staff sergeant at [Virginia](#)’s Fort Belvoir, and his military health insurance refused to cover private counseling to support the changes his daughter was embracing. Several months later, Jenn said, she was so frustrated and distraught that she tried to kill herself.

“Nothing was working out for me,” she told The Associated Press in an interview, sitting in a coffee shop near her family’s home on the base with her mom, who encouraged Jenn by placing a hand on her knee. “And I kind of felt suffocated by all of the rules that had been put in place for people like me.”

The military insurance also wouldn’t cover the \$15,000 hormone blockers that could help Jenn transition to female. But such barriers will disappear Monday, when a number of health services for transgender people will begin to be covered by military insurance.

The [Pentagon](#) announced in June an end to the military’s ban on transgender service members. The ripple effect of the new health benefits extends beyond active-duty military to include roughly 7 million retirees and children of service members, like Jenn.

To read more, please visit: <http://www.lgbtqnation.com/2016/10/new-policy-brings-relief-transgender-youth-military-families/>

## Registered to Vote?

As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, PFLAG Pittsburgh does not endorse specific candidates for any public office. However, we do endorse policies, positions, and pieces of legislation. For example, PFLAG Pittsburgh supports the non-discrimination law known as the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), but we will not endorse a candidate for governor. PFLAG Pittsburgh also supports the Pennsylvania Safe Schools (PASS) Act which is proposed legislation to make our commonwealth's schools safer for all students; however, we cannot comment about the candidates for President of the United States.

As a 501(c)3, we also advocate for our members and readers to register to vote. The Pennsylvania deadline to vote in the general election on November 8, 2016 is quickly approaching. **The deadline is Tuesday, October 11, 2016.** That means if you do not register prior to the end of that day, you are ineligible to vote in the November 8th election.

Below is a link to register in Pennsylvania:

<https://www.pavoterservices.state.pa.us/pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx>

To read more about PFLAG National's position on certain policies, please visit the following link for more information: <https://www.pflag.org/wherewestand>

 How to  
**register to vote**  
online in Pennsylvania.

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**1** Go to *register.votesPA.com*. 

 Fill out the form and submit your application. **2**

**3** Use the application number to track your submission. 

 Get your voter registration card in the mail. **4**

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 Register now at *register.votesPA.com*