

August, 2020 - RESTARTING SUPPORT MEETINGS



The PFLAG Banner



Messages from the Co-Presidents

August 2020

Dear PFLAG New Orleans Family, Friends, and Followers,

As many families are struggling with how to send their kids back to school while the threat of Covid-19 lingers, many in the LGBTQ+ community are struggling with returning to work or school in a non-accepting environment.

Still others are trying to adapt to their new trans lives, working to accept that their loved one has "come out of the closet," or trying to come to terms with their own sexuality.

PFLAG can help you and your loved ones. In a time where community relations are sparking change and where political and medical concerns are stressing everyone, we can all use a listening ear and care-giving heart from time to time.

Join us for the free support group meetings, which resume on August 27 at 7PM on Zoom. Our innermost feelings and concerns will be safe with each other, the meetings will be confidential and secure, and you will make new friends to give you an emotional boost when you most need it.

[L. Wayne Christenberry](#)

Co-President
PFLAG New Orleans Chapter

[Alberto Oliver](#)

Co-President
PFLAG New Orleans Chapter

P.S.: On behalf of the 2020/21 PFLAG New Orleans Board, thank you to all of the members that voted and for electing our new and returning Board Members! We are already working to make this term exciting for everyone!

Will you attend the PFLAG New Orleans Support Meeting on Zoom?

LOCATION

Zoom - You will be emailed the link.

DATE AND TIME

08/27/20 7:00pm-08/27/20 9:00pm

PFLAG offers peer support that is available at no cost and open to all who wish to participate. You just need a computer or digital device.

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PFLAG Welcomes Back Its Support Group Meetings... on Zoom!

The meetings are finally back.

Our work continues. PFLAG is here to support you, so you can support your LGBTQ+ loved ones. PFLAG Connects is a new virtual meeting space for the PFLAG Chapter Network. You can join by video, audio or chat - whatever you're comfortable with.

All of our groups are led and facilitated by PFLAG New Orleans volunteers. Safety is of our utmost priority for all of our virtual support group meetings. We will discuss privacy, confidentiality, and group agreements at the start of the meeting.

Please send us an email (by clicking on the RSVP button) to let us know who will attend the meeting. Once you submit this Email, we will send you a reply with instructions on how to join the group.

Please Click [HERE](#) to Email
Your R.S.V.P.

PFLAG New Orleans Leadership Changes

Announcing your 2020-2021 Executive Committee Team:

Co-Presidents: Wayne Christenberry and Alberto Oliver.

Treasurer: Patti Matlock McMahon.

Recording Secretary: Brian LaBella.

Corresponding Secretary*: Nicholas Hite.

(*confirmation pending)

Congratulations to the team and to all the new/returning members of the board.

[Updated Board of Directors List](#)



Join a Committee!

PFLAG Needs your help on committees. Anyone can help on a committee --and it will introduce you to a lot of the ways that PFLAG helps our community. Here are some committees that need help now:

Fundraising, Support Group, Outreach, Technology, and Scholarship Auction/

[Click here to ask for more info!](#)



Community Calendar

What's going on, Louisiana? Click here to see the Activity Calendar. Do you have something important to add? Send a message to info@pflagno.org.

[Click to go to the Calendar](#)

PARTNERSHIP



CHEF
RON'S
GUMBO STOP



Chef Ron's Gumbo Stop is open for dine in, to go, and to order on-line. Chef Ron uses local ingredients to create specials and tantalizing local favorites. The warm atmosphere is inviting for all to come enjoy a home away from home.



GiveOutDay was a great success, raising \$1250 for PFLAG New Orleans.

Heartfelt appreciation goes out to all of the donors and volunteers that worked to make this event successful



Save the Post Office

Last week, the President suggested that he is unwilling to make a deal that includes funding for the Postal Service because it would smooth the way for universal mail-in voting during the election this year. [Here is the transcript of his remarks.](#) PFLAG has been updating this breaking story [on its blog.](#)

In Memoriam

Stewart Butler lived an outstanding life and will be missed by the LGBTQ+ community for many years to come. He was a true Hero for his tireless support and advocacy for the majority of his life. He was the single most important person to push National PFLAG to include Transgender Policies in the bylaws.

Stewart, along with Sandra Paliet

and Rip Naquin pushed the City of New Orleans to enact the Domestic Partnership Policy for city employees.

Click to read a touching tribute to Stewart by Frank Perez.



Stewart Butler, 1930 - 2020

Stewart's memorial service will be privately held to ensure safe distancing but efforts are being made to stream the services on August 21, through the [Faerie Playhouse Facebook](#) page. You have to be added to the page to be able to view the event, so please enter your request early!



MAKE A DIFFERENCE - REGISTER TO VOTE ASAP

Registration Facts

In order to be eligible to vote in Louisiana for a particular election, you must be registered at least 20 days prior to an election if registering through our [GeauxVote Online Registration System](#) with a Louisiana driver's license or Louisiana special ID card or 30 days prior to an election if registering **in person or by mail**. (If mailing in an application, the application or envelope must be postmarked 30 days prior to the first election in which you seek to vote.) No cost is associated with registering to vote. It is a right afforded to you as a United States citizen by the U.S. Constitution.

LGBT in the News

Here are some news articles you may have missed this month.



[40% of American LGBT Youth Considered Suicide Last Year](#)

[Black LGBTQ Hit Hard by Economic Downturn](#)

[Fauci says No Clear Connection Between HIV and Covid Risk](#)

[2 Black Trans Women Killed in 48 Hours](#)

Do you have a comment about an article? Send your thoughts to the [Banner Editor](#).



How to Become a Great Trans Ally

If there is one thing that is painfully obvious, it is that parents and friends of trans friends and family often need support, love, and guidance.

PFLAG has heard your request for help and has produced a wonderfully entertaining and educational guide that we should all read.

START YOUR JOURNEY HERE.
[download our trans ally guide](#)

Click on the link ([Start Your Journey](#)), read the guide, and [send feedback and letters to the editor](#).



On the Air With Sally

Resident Radio Celebrity, Author, and Activist Sally Jackson brings wit, wisdom, and occasional sense in this entertaining column.

A Little Piece of Radio History

An excerpt by Sally Michelle Jackson

For the full article, go to the [PFLAG New Orleans Blog](#)

I've been recruiting the radio show guests (what we call, "Show-running," with help from Co-Hosts Josh (AKA "Adonis") and Tyra, the Purple Butterfly, but we are glad to announce that local performer, Vanessa Carr Kennedy is stepping into that role. Vanessa is very active in the LGBTQ+ community.

While Josh was recovering from a severe argument with a staircase in his apartment complex, I was doing the show alone and it occurred to me that, if I got sick, there was no one to take the helm. We needed to have another option, as Josh has work conflicts sometimes, and I'm not a Spring chicken any more (more like an Autumn chicken). I was visiting Julie and we were discussing what to do while Josh was convalescing when Julie told me that a mutual friend from NOAGE (now SAGE New Orleans) had mentioned that she was looking for projects to do while retired. The call went out that day and Tyra was more than happy to give it a shot.

The next show was her audition for the founder of WHIV and infectious disease specialist, Dr. MarkAlain Dery. I called him after the show to discuss the possibility of adding Tyra to the "krewe." It turns out that he had been listening, like he usually did before Covid-19. He told me to give her the codes and extend his welcome to the staff.

We are now recording the shows on Zoom on the guests' schedule. Any of the Co-Hosts can record the shows. Josh has joined the call from his car a couple of times. Things are changing but we are adaptable and resilient to the "New Normal". Listen to the show at 8 AM each Thursday on WHIV LP, 102.3 FM or stream us live online at whivfm.org.



SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS RETURN!

(on ZOOM)

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, August 27, 2020

7:00 to 9:00 PM



Hot News: There will be a Regional Conference this year and it will be hosted by Beaumont. Of course, due to pandemic-related restrictions, adaptations are necessary.

This is great news for anyone who has never been to a PFLAG Conference! Although dates, times, and topics are still being finalized, details will be forthcoming very soon. The conference will be streamed live with speakers from every region. That's right, Dr Lynn Friedman and Rev. Jarrett Banks are slated to be panelists.

Stay tuned. This is going to be an exciting, entertaining, and personally rewarding event and you will be notified as soon as details are available.



[Podcasts are available for download \(here\).](#)



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*IMPORTANT: Amazon has us listed as
Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays New Orleans.*

Staff of PFLAG N.O. Banner



Editor: Alberto Oliver
Contributors: Wayne Christenberry

[To contribute ideas or join the staff, click here.](#)

