

## Autumn, 2018 - Let's Get the Vote Out!



# The PFLAG Banner

Printable copy of this  
month's issue

Printable copy of last month's  
issue



### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*As we welcome Fall to our neighborhoods here in the New Orleans region, we are also ushering in a New Membership Campaign. Our Membership Chairperson, Shane Steinkamp, has created a brilliant new brochure and an easy reference business size card that you can pass out to all of your friends. It has all the programs and services on it plus our hotline number. Please look at these items when you have a chance. Now is the time to join! So, go online and come be a part of something that is changing lives here in New Orleans.*

*On a sad note, PFLAG New Orleans lost one of its former Board Members, George Caldwell. He served our chapter as Vice President during the earliest days of this chapter. He, along with many others, laid the foundation that helped grow and*

nurture this organization into what it is today. The father of a gay daughter, George taught us all that--no matter what--a parent's love of their children, first and foremost, is unconditional. He will be missed and the Board and I extend our most sincere sympathies to Allison and her family.

Next, PFLAG is a non-partisan organization that neither endorses nor promotes candidates or political parties. However, we do promote your right to vote, regardless of your personal views or political affiliation. **So, Just Vote!** It is always important and is your civic right. Your vote can and does make a difference.

Finally, our New Website is getting ready to launch; please take a minute to visit the site and give us your thoughts by sending an email to [info@pflagno.org](mailto:info@pflagno.org). We love your feedback because it helps us better serve You!

As a very wise woman (Ellen Degeneres, a native New Orleanian), says all the time, "Be Kind To One Another."

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## BREAKING NEWS!



Mrs. Julie Thompson and Mr. Joe Melcher have been selected to be honored at the NOAGE Gala to be held on November 16, 2018 from 7-10PM at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas. Buy your tickets now to support NOAGE and honor PFLAG's two very worthy recipients.

[Details and Tickets](#)

## 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@pflag.org](mailto:info@pflag.org).

[Click to go to the Calendar](#)



## Membership Drive



Thank you for your support for the New Orleans Area chapter of PFLAG. Your support makes it possible for PFLAG New Orleans and the PFLAG National Office to stand up for equality, fairness and justice in Louisiana and in Washington, D.C. With your support, we are making a difference.

Efforts to support the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community have continued throughout the last year and we have been very active fulfilling our mission to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through:

1. Support to cope with an adverse society
2. Education to enlighten an ill-informed public
3. Advocacy to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights

The New Orleans Area PFLAG chapter continues to work toward an inclusive and just society that accepts each individual regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity & expression.

### YOU ARE NEEDED!

Our chapter is proud to be a part of the PFLAG National organization. With local affiliates in more than 500 communities across the United States and abroad and over 200,000 members, PFLAG is the largest grassroots-based family organization of its kind. It is a nonprofit organization and is not affiliated with any religious or political institutions. In communities across the U.S.

PFLAG New Orleans is funded entirely by membership dues and donations. We do not receive funds from the national organization.

**Please help make a difference.**

**Join or renew today.**

# PARTNERSHIP



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## Southern Regional Conference

In late September, The PFLAG Regional Conference was held in Fort Worth, Texas.

As you may know, PFLAG holds regional conferences in even-numbered years and National Conferences on odd-numbered ones. The conferences are definitely worth attending, and the New Orleans chapter was represented.



After the opening remarks, the audience was treated to a rousing, inspirational, and heartwarming presentation by Mr. Ryan Smith of Texas. He recounted the emotional struggle while coming to the realization that he had to affirm his transgendered child--not keep pushing back against the 6-year-old. Read details of [Ryan's story](#) here.

Thought-provoking workshops included LGBT Aging issues, working with School Districts, Effective Advocacy, and Gender Spectrum Education. The diversity of topics makes it clear that the conferences offer something for everyone; all chapters can learn a great deal at the annual events and translate that information into positive impacts in our cities.

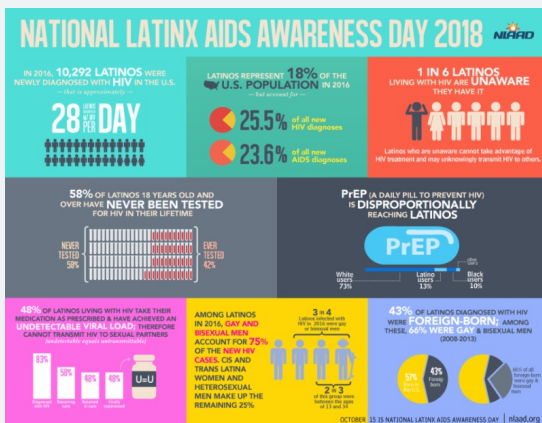
After an enlightening panel discussion on the state of domestic legal affairs, the Fort Worth Chapter concluded the event with a rousing Keynote speech by [Karen McCrocklin](#). While recounting her years in LGBT activism, she revealed struggles and successes that inspired all in

attendance.

The next PFLAG Southern Regional Conference will take place in 2 years; as soon as the site is announced, do your best to make plans to attend. You and your family will love it.

## NORTHSHORE SUPPORT GROUP MEETING MOVES TO NEW LOCATION!

The Northshore support group will now be held every 3rd Thursday at the Northshore Jewish Congregation. 1403 N. Causeway Ave., Mandeville, LA from 7 to 9 PM.



## LATINX AIDS AWARENESS

Hispanic Heritage Month runs from September 15 to October 15--and the National Latinx (Latino/Latina) AIDS Awareness Day was on October 15.

The Infographics released by the Latino Commission on AIDS reveals alarming facts.

1 out of every 5 new HIV diagnoses in the USA are Hispanic but only 1 in 6 Hispanics living with HIV is aware of the infection.

Also, less than half of all adult Latinos have never been tested for HIV.

Clearly, the data reveals that there is a tremendous amount of work to be done in American cities (such as New Orleans) with large Hispanic populations. PFLAG New Orleans and other groups will be working to increase outreach efforts in the Latinx community. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please email [info@pflagno.org](mailto:info@pflagno.org).

## **Mona Lisa Restaurant**

1212 Royal St., New Orleans, LA  
(504) 522-5746

Why go have a mass-produced, bland, and uninspired Italian meal at a chain restaurant when you can get a classic, delicious, and delightful meal in the French Quarter?

Mona Lisa is a pleasant surprise, offering a diverse menu, with careful attention being paid to have something for everyone. Diners love their Classic Lasagna and Eggplant Parmesan.

Kids and adults love the atmosphere, which includes crayons so you, too, can create a version of the Mona Lisa--which may end up gracing the walls, where dozens of Mona Lisas reside!

*The owners of Mona Lisa Restaurant have long been supporters of PFLAG New Orleans.*



## **Help PFLAG on World AIDS Day**



Art Against AIDS takes place on World AIDS Day, December 1, at Club XLIV (at the Superdome). Art Against AIDS began in 1986 with local art students making holiday ornaments to sell and raise money. Today, 32 years later, our gala features some of the finest of what New Orleans offers: great food from local restaurants, a holiday boutique, a juried auction of art, local merchandise, vacation packages, and live entertainment.

This year, in addition to the food, drinks and entertainment, we also want to use this event to highlight how far we have come (and how far we still have to go) in the fight against HIV/ AIDS. This is an opportunity for the New Orleans Community to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to remember

those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. The event will include two of the New Orleans panels of the AIDS Quilt as well as an interactive memory wall. Event Chair this year is David Lumpkin, New Orleans Artist. Guest of Honor is ABC Reporter, Karl Schmid. Karl will be speaking about the U = U campaign. Tickets, sponsor opportunities, volunteer opportunities and more can be found at [crescentcare.org/aaa](http://crescentcare.org/aaa). Since it is World AIDS Day, this will truly be a community event. For every ticket sold with promo code, PFLAG will receive \$15 back. All you have to do is enter promo code PFLAG18 at check out. See you at Art Against AIDS!

**[Get your ticket!](#)**



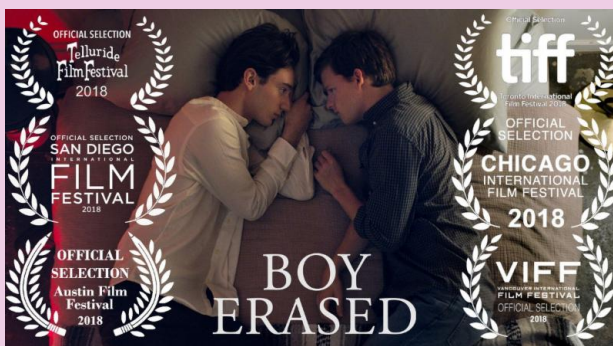
## LGBT in the News

A local retreat and time to Vote highlight the news this month.

***Do you have a comment about an article? Send your thoughts to:***

***[info@gmail.com](mailto:info@gmail.com)***

**[Click For Info.](#)**



## Spotlight: Boy Erased

Great News: PFLAG has embarked on a partnership with the upcoming film **BOY ERASED**, which stars Lucas Hedges, Nicole Kidman, and Russell Crowe. [You can see the trailer here](#), and then look out for the future poster, which will include our logo as one of the program partners.

*The film opens in New Orleans theaters on Friday, November 2.*

### **BOY ERASED Synopsis**

**BOY ERASED** tells the courageous story of Jared Eamons (Lucas Hedges), the son of a Baptist pastor in a small American town, who must overcome the fallout of being outed to his parents (Nicole Kidman and Russell Crowe). His parents struggle with reconciling their love for their son with their beliefs. Fearing a loss of family, friends, and community, Jared is

pressured into attending a conversion therapy program. While there, Jared comes into conflict with its leader (Joel Edgerton) and begins his journey to finding his own voice and accepting his true self. Academy Award®-nominee Lucas Hedges (*Manchester by the Sea*), Academy Award®-winner Russell Crowe (*Gladiator*, *A Beautiful Mind*), Academy Award®-winner Nicole Kidman (TV's *Big Little Lies*, *The Killing of a Sacred Deer*), Golden Globe®-nominee Joel Edgerton (*Loving*, *Zero Dark Thirty*), Emmy® and Tony Award®-winner Cherry Jones (TV's *Transparent*), Grammy Award®-winner Michael "Flea" Balzary (*Baby Driver*, TV's *The Wild Thornberrys*), Joe Alwyn (*The Sense of an Ending*), Xavier Dolan (*I Killed my Mother*), Troye Sivan (*X-Men Origins: Wolverine*), David Joseph Craig (*Permission*), Jesse LaTourette, Britton Sear and Théodore Pellerin (*First Light*) star in *BOY ERASED*, a Focus Features presentation of an Anonymous Content Production.



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

## Where Did We Come From? Where Are We Going?

Where did we come from (not in the deep philosophical sense but from our organizational perspective)?

How did PFLAG get its start? Parents of Gay and Lesbian children came together for support but it didn't stop there. They added the families and friends as well as the Gays and Lesbians themselves, whether children, parents or just people in need of support.

They continued to add to their original focus by adding bisexuals and later, with the urging of our New Orleans chapter, became the first national LGB organization to include the Transgender community in its agenda and now in the mission statement. The work wasn't done yet; we added new definitions to include everyone on the gender spectrum.

So what about the . . . [\(Click here for the rest of the article\)](#)





PFLAG New Orleans is looking for your feedback, articles, and story ideas. Please send your comments to [info@pflagno.org](mailto:info@pflagno.org)



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