

September, 2020 - Focus on Support



The PFLAG Banner



Message from the Co-Presidents

September, 2020

Dear PFLAG New Orleans Family, Friends, and Followers,

We pray that you and your loved ones are safe from the calamities that 2020 has brought us. If there is a bright spot to be found, it is the inspirational involvement of new PFLAG members and followers. Many are asking for help and supporters are stepping up!

In this issue, a 15-year-old PFLAG member shares his thoughts about Conversion Therapy, a controversial topic that affects many of us today. This, along with some other associated features in this issue, reflects the interest, energy, and involvement of our members in effecting change..

If you'd like to find proof that PFLAG New Orleans is thriving, look no further than the Virtual Support Group Meetings, where our community is coming together to share stories, love, and moral support with those in crisis as well as with those looking for peers and new friends.

Your support means even more to those in the restaurant community; restaurants that have supported PFLAG and [CrescentCare](#) in years past need your help during this Covid-related economic and industry crisis. Please join us in [Dining Out \(or Taking Out\) for Life](#) and supporting restaurants like Chef

Ron's Gumbo Shop, Spudley's, and this month's Spotlights Business, Louisiana Pizza Kitchen (Uptown). Check out the article in this issue for the complete list of participating restaurants. Remember to Dine (or Take) Out on **Thursday, September 24th!**

Let's join forces to support all of those that need our help; if you know anyone in crisis, whether it's a teen in a school where LGBT students are not allowed to be "out," a friend who is having a hard time with pandemic solitude, or if it's someone struggling with a family crisis because one of their loved ones is coming out as trans, please encourage them to come to PFLAGNO.ORG for resources, support, and acceptance.

Also, this is the first year that the PFLAG Regional Conference can be attended free by all. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to attend a conference from the comfort of your home. Check out the info in this issue!

Please accept our sincere appreciation and admiration for all of your love and support of PFLAG New Orleans.

[L. Wayne Christenberry](#)

[Alberto Oliver](#)

Co-Presidents
PFLAG New Orleans Chapter

October 8 PFLAG Support Group Meeting...on Zoom!

The meetings are finally back and will remain virtual for a while.



Click here to R.S.V.P. and receive the ZOOM Link

PFLAG  **CONNECTS**
meeting where you are

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 meetings 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

Dining Out has two more Dine Out Days!

Sept. 24 & Oct. 29

**Support your local
restaurants**



Dining Out For Life is back this year and with a different twist and an exciting new flavor! For the past 25 years, restaurants have given back to CrescentCare when they were really needed to feed and support the HIV clients. The time has come to return the favor!

This year, **Dining Out For Life** is being held in support of the restaurants and their staffs that have been kind enough to support CrescentCare. Mark your calendar for one of the dates above as we ask you to DINE, whether you eat in, take out or get it delivered in support of these restaurants who are in dire need of community support:

Adolfo's Bistro Orleans Brennan's Café Degas Chef Ron's Gumbo Stop
The Grill Room Louisiana Pizza Kitchen, Uptown Mark Twain's Pizza Landing
Mona Lisa Muriel's on Jackson Square Napoleon House Ralph's on the Park
Saba Santa Fe Spudly's Super Spuds Toups Meatery



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



Are you or someone you know struggling with substance abuse?

Let Volunteers of America help you start your journey of recovery today! Our Journey program helps people living with, or at a high risk of, acquiring HIV and reducing risky behaviors. All services are provided at no charge to you.



Volunteers of America
Helping America's most vulnerable®

Community Referrals <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health Screenings• Financial Education• Job Placement Education• Detox & Rehabilitation Services	Services Provided <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Counseling• Support Groups• Peer Support• Health Navigation
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Telehealth Services From The Comfort Of Your Home

Call for more information,
Northshore 985.674.0488, Southshore 504.539.3075.
Incentives will be given to individuals who complete the program!

FEATURED LITERARY SELECTION

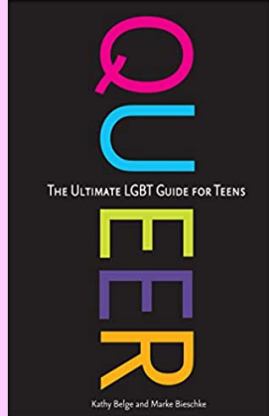


INTERNET SAFETY
BACK TO SCHOOL WEBINAR SERIES

Internet Safety and Stopping Sex Trafficking

Predators are leveraging every possible online channel: mobile apps, social media, chat, email, websites, via phones, tablets, video game consoles, the list goes on. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) recently shared in July that reports to their CyberTipline were up more than 90% between January and June 2020 over the same period last year.

This September, Shared Hope International is hosting the [Internet Safety Back to School! Webinar Series](#), where



Queer - The Ultimate LGBT Guide for Teens by Kathy Belge and Marke Bieschke

law enforcement, survivors, and leading field experts will come together to answer important questions

[Click for Info and Webinar Dates](#)



Chevron Walk to End HIV with presenting sponsor Avita Pharmacy has gone virtual.

Win gift certificate prizes of \$1,000, \$500 or \$250 just for walking. See details by clicking the link*

On the weekend of September 26, come out and walk for thousands of people in the metro area who are living with HIV and its devastating affects. The beauty of the this 31st Annual Chevron Walk to End HIV is that you can do it from anywhere you please, at any time you please and with those around you who you wish to be among. Social distancing is still important and CrescentCare asks you to model good behavior as you walk with your family, friends or teams. This is the same great event as the NO/AIDS WALK with just a name change to reduce stigma in the community. The 3K Walk/Run raises awareness of the impact HIV/AIDS continues to have on our community by honoring those living with the disease and remembering those who have passed on.



PFLAG VOTES

Have you watched it yet? This great short film from PFLAG National and director Nick Oceano shares stories of PFLAG families, the reasons they are voting, and how they're making their plans to do so. Also be sure to follow all of our social media channels--**including our new TikTok channel!**--to watch the minivideos we'll be releasing about each of our beautiful PFLAG families.

Watch the movie, share it with friends, then **make your #2020VotePlan today!** Be sure to visit pflag.org/pflagvotes2020 for updated voting information from PFLAG National.

Tuesday, September 22nd is National Voter Registration Day!

Just because organizing in-person voter registration drives is near-impossible this year doesn't mean that you can't participate! Online tools are an incredibly effective way to help register voters, reach more and different audiences, and accommodate individuals from all 50 states and DC. **Check out these great resources from our friends at National Voter Registration Day,** and then put them to good use next week. Together we're going to get out the vote!

Registration



LGBT in the News

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



[Coronavirus isolated LGBTQ+ students from their community; now they're going back to school.](#)

[Anchorage becomes first city in state to ban conversion therapy](#)

Florida - [Transgender woman sues Pinellas County sheriff's office for mistreatment in jail](#)

Texas - [High School English teacher reinstated after being placed on leave for BLM and pro-LGBTQ+ posters in her virtual classroom.](#)

[Vote for your favorite LGBT HEROES Until September 30.](#)

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



[Q Chat Space: A Community for LGBTQ+ Teens](#)

It's back-to-school time, and that means teens are going to need some support, especially given the lack of GSA access for so many students. Enter Q Chat Space, which provides live, chat-based online discussion groups for LGBTQ+ teens ages 13 to 19. Conversations are facilitated by experienced staff from such organizations Hetrick-Martin Institute, SMYAL, and Time Out Youth.

Know an LGBTQ+ youth who could use some peer support? [Check out these great groups from Q Chat Space!](#)

**SAFE
DIVERSE
ACCEPTING**

A community for LGBTQ+ teens.
Chat with like-minded peers in live chats, facilitated by folks who care.

Q CHAT SPACE



Feature Presentation



This month, 15-year-old PFLAG New Orleans member, Sean S., presents his information and views on a very controversial topic: Conversion Therapy.

CONVERSION THERAPY 101

An Op-Ed Piece by Sean S.

Hello everyone, I am Sean. I want you to know a bit about me. I am openly gay and my pronouns are he/him/his. Now let's get to the topic: Conversion therapy.

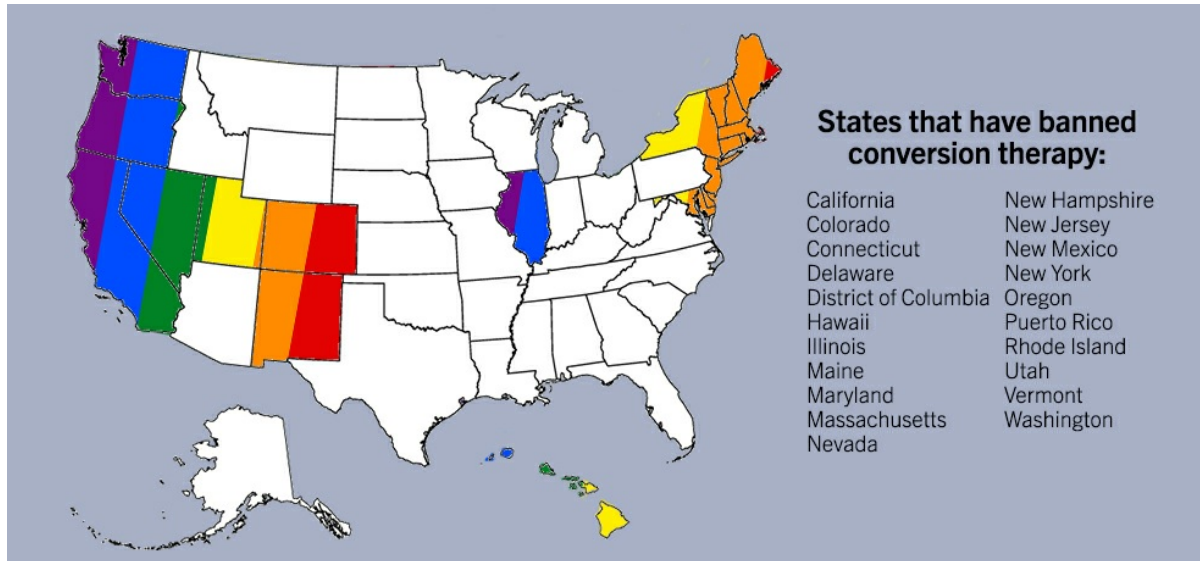
Succinctly, Conversion Therapy is an attempt to change a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. This can take place because of many reasons, including cultural or personal beliefs, religion, etc. Conversion therapy is potentially harmful not just to the "patient" but also to the "patient's" family, friends, etc. Some forms of conversion therapy involve emotional and physical abuse, beating, rape, and many many other horrible tactics that have almost no proven effect in changing someones sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression of identity. These tactics can leave lifelong wounds--both mental and physical--which may lead to debilitating psychological trauma and even suicidal depression.

Something that almost every LGBT+ person will agree upon is that you cannot voluntarily change your sexual orientation or gender identification. If conversion therapy changes anything, it will sometimes make the sexual behavior of the patient change. There is a difference between sexual behavior and sexual orientation. Sexual behavior is who you have relationships with; sexual orientation is who you are attracted to romantically and sexually.

Conversion therapy still goes on a lot more than you think. Even if there is a law against it in some states (not in Louisiana, though), people may go above and beyond to find ways to legally (or sometimes illegally) run a conversion camp. These individuals use legal loopholes and organizational descriptions in

ways that allow them to operate in legal grey areas.

LGBT+ Teens and adolescents are very vulnerable to familial, religious and societal pressures. They may not have the mental or emotional ability to stand up for themselves or oppose the adults pushing conversion therapy. In conclusion, we all need to do our job in making the public more aware of the struggles that one might endure in conversion therapy. I hope that you all make the right decisions and keep fighting for equality and a national ban of conversion therapy!



Graphic by the the National Board of Certified Counselors (2020)



BOY ERASED

Jared Eamons, the son of a small-town Baptist pastor, must overcome the fallout after being outed as gay to his parents. His father and mother struggle to reconcile 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 and begins his journey to finding his own voice and accepting his true self.

--Google Film Synopsis



PFLAG New Orleans and Surrounding Area

SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

(on ZOOM)

SAVE THE DATE!
Thursday, October 8, 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, Gail Pesses, and Rev. Jarrett Banks are slated to be panelists.

TICKETS ARE FREE!!!
(Donations will be accepted, however)

Get your free tickets
here!



Podcasts are available for download (here).



**Consider shopping at
Amazon Smile and
designating PFLAG New
Orleans as your
charitable organization.**

*This is an easy way to support us when you shop at Amazon.
Shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1706391.*

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



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

