

Celebrating  
25 + years in the  
Cincinnati Community



# PFLAG CINCINNATI

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 3

Fall 2010

## Quarterly Newsletter

## Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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## Letter from the President

Its that time of year again where I sit down and think about all the great things that PFLAG has done over the last few months. We have been busy!

In August we marked our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Marian Wedge our founder was present at the September meeting and gave us all the details about how she got this great group of people off the ground. Dan Tepher, our regional director, was on hand to present us with a certificate for our years of service to the community.

October 1 we were part of the first LGBT Pride Night at the Cincinnati Reds Ball Park. It was outstanding to see so many familiar faces in a sea of red shirts celebrating our diversity! We of course participated in the Walk to StopAIDS and want to say a BIG Thank You to Maria Sulcer for once again leading us in this adventure! We had a great time and we appreciate you! Speaking of Maria, another thank you to Lisa and yourself for sharing that beautiful baby boy with us and your story! It was very helpful and a joy to hear. Several of us from PFLAG participated in another event for StopAIDS-Dine Out to StopAIDS. It was a great event centered around food and fundraising!

We participated in several community engagements

over the summer also. The Black Family Reunion, NKU Youth Summit, Children's Hospital Diversity Day and The Brighton Center. We gave out our knowledge and experience to many people during those events. There were many other events that our PFLAGers have been a part of and we are always looking for more ways to get our name and mission out to the community! I want to personally thank those who have committed to making sure PFLAG stays in the mind of this city! On October 20 we participated along side GLSEN to bring about awareness to The Trevor Project, the only national suicide hotline for gay and lesbian youth. With the recent news about our kids suffering we felt it was necessary to bring this organization into the spotlight. .

Want to know more about The Trevor Project check out their website at [www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org) October also brought about board elections. I want to say welcome to Lauren Grosser our new secretay, Gina Ogden Ellis our new member at large and Matt Ellis our new library person. You can read about them in the newsletter. We want to say thank you and a job well done to Karen Weber and Monica Plett on the many years of service that you have given and will give to PFLAG. Tim and Carol Eggbert, our refreshment chairs had to step down due to some scheduling

conflicts but we want to thank them for always making sure we had snacks and drinks at our meetings. We know you may miss a few meetings but you are never far from our thoughts! Thanks to all of YOU!!

So in closing this letter out I would like to say how much I appreciate my board of directors: Lynne, Mark, Brent, Tom and Suzanne. Without YOU I am not sure I would be able to do this. Your commitment to this organization is astounding and I applaud all that you do! Thank you Tim and John for your commitment to PFLAG Cincinnati all the way from Colorado! I would like to say Thank you to the ISQCCBE for each year providing us with necessary funds to support our scholarship program. Thank you to each of our members who support PFLAG through monetary donations and for helping us spread the name of PFLAG. And to the families who have shared their stories, their laughter and their tears. We thank you for having the courage to step into our lives and help make a difference. So until our next newsletter stay safe and keep pressing on!

Michael Cotrell  
PFLAG President

Check out our website at [www.pflagcinci.org](http://www.pflagcinci.org) or on Facebook:  
PFLAG Cincinnati



# Mission Statement

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual

and transgender persons, their families and friends through:

Support, to cope with an adverse society,

Education, to enlighten an ill-informed public, and

Advocacy, to end discrimination and secure civil rights.

## 2010/2011 Executive Board

President: Michael Cotrell  
president@pflagcinci.org

Vice President: Lynne Lefebvre  
vicepresident@pflagcinci.org

Secretary: Lauren Grosser

Treasurer: Brent Rose  
treasurer@pflagcinci.org

Members at Large  
Tom Jenkins, Mark Smith,  
Gina Ogden-Ellis, & Suzanne  
Whitaker

## Meeting

Our monthly chapter meetings are on the **second Tuesday of each month** from 7:00 – 9:30 P.M. at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church (link for directions <http://www.mtauburnpresby.org/location.shtml>) located at 103 William Howard Taft Rd, 45219. The monthly **chapter meeting is open to everyone**, including parents, friends and family of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons, as well as to gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons

or anyone interested in learning more about the topic. Meetings are completely confidential. What is said there stays there. Confidentiality is important to most of us for one reason or another, and at all time we respect the rights of others.

The chapter also has a monthly board meeting that is held on the Thursday before the monthly chapter meeting, starting at 6:30 P.M. at various locations. Paid up members of the chapter are welcome to at-

tend the monthly board meeting.

Please send an email to [info@pflagcinci.org](mailto:info@pflagcinci.org) or call the PFLAG Help Line at 513-721-7900 and ask for the PFLAG contact number if you need more information about the monthly chapter meeting or information about attending the chapter board meeting.

- Committee Chairs**
- Advocacy Chair:**  
Lynne Lefebvre
- Hotline:**  
Lois Kay
- Email Liaison/Webmaster:**  
Tom Jenkins
- Library:**  
Matt Ellis
- Membership:**  
Tom Jenkins
- Newsletter:**  
Tim Gross  
[newsletter@pflagcinci.org](mailto:newsletter@pflagcinci.org)
- Programs:**  
OPEN
- Refreshments:**  
Lauren Grosser
- Speaker's Bureau:**  
OPEN
- Scholarship:**  
Dan Ley  
[scholarship@pflagcinci.org](mailto:scholarship@pflagcinci.org)

## Newsletter

This newsletter is published quarterly (usually sometime in the first month of the quarter). The chapter would benefit greatly from your involvement in the creation of this newsletter. Send an email

to the editor at [newsletter@pflagcinci.org](mailto:newsletter@pflagcinci.org) if you have an announcement that should be included, an idea for an article, or even better, would be interested in writing an article. Also, feel free to

send an email to the editor if you have any suggestions or comments regarding your chapter's quarterly newsletter's content or design.



## The Power of the Word Unspoken

By Jane Biddinger

Fall is here again. The time of year to rake those leaves, carve those pumpkins, and being an even-numbered year, toss around that political football known as *Don't Ask, Don't Tell*.

Those running for office as well as those attempting to hang onto their positions, government pensions, and health care coverage, once again take this opportunity to express their opinions on this policy. Patting themselves on the back. Pointing fingers at the opposition. Their concern, of course, is genuine. Upcoming elections a mere coincidence.

Those on the left say that outlawing gays from military service is unfair and prejudicial. Period. No matter whether the soldier is open or closeted. The army needs the best of the best and the brightest of the bright. Eliminating part of the population based on sexual orientation weakens our armed forces. While the service involves the obvious exposure to danger and peril, it also offers career choices and learning opportunities denied to our gay citizens.

A majority of conservatives support an all-straight army. Amen. And questioning that belief is not appropriate at this time. After all, how can we change policy when we've not yet finished our quest to ensure liberty, create a democracy, and unseat those guilty of human rights violations in a coun-

try thousands of miles away?

To these right-wingers, the term gay soldier is itself an oxymoron. As they see it, no person can possibly be both gay and soldierly. A rainbow and Purple Heart could never adorn the same chest. Perhaps these notions are based on stereotypes. Perhaps they are based on the religious rants of a preacher. Or just perhaps, these individuals can't imagine a person willing to lay down his life to defend a country whose *Declaration of Independence* declares all men to be created equal, but whose military policies consider him a second-class citizen. Or perhaps they cannot perceive a soldier capable of protecting the rights of her fellow citizens as, state by state, those citizens vote to deny her the life assumed by her heterosexual counterparts.

On the surface, this debate may appear to affect only the lives of active servicemen and women and those wishing to join their ranks. But the *Don't Ask, Don't Tell* policy has ramifications far and beyond the troops.

Early on, we learn there are certain things we don't ask about. *Whether the bank teller poops in the potty. When Grandpa is going to die. Why Aunt Clara has a moustache.* These things we don't question because they cause embarrassment, discomfort, and hurt feelings.

As we grow, we find there are things we don't disclose except to our closest friends and even then not without good cause and a firm bond of trust. *A failed test. A rejected date offer. An alcoholic parent.* These things we don't speak about because they expose us to shame, blame, and pain.

By its very name our government's policy of *Don't Ask, Don't Tell* carries a double whammy. Not only is it considered inappropriate to ask about homosexuality; talking about it is equally off limits as well.

Though no one's asking, and no one's telling, for the past 17 years the message has come through loud and clear. Homosexuality is a dark secret. A taboo. A matter of shame. The only gay person who's welcome in the service must also be in a closet.

These attitudes appear to have our government's backing. These sentiments reverberate throughout our society. In some circles they're considered gospel.

Today, gay youth are being bullied in record-breaking numbers. Suicide rates soar. As a PFLAG parent I find this unconscionable and intolerable. As long as young people are driven to jump from bridges, tie a nooses to front yard trees, or put guns to their heads, *Don't Ask, Don't Tell* simply won't do.

**"As we grow, we find there are things we don't disclose except to our closest friends and even then not without good cause and a firm bond of trust."**



# Reflections from a PFLAG Mom

## Gina Ogden Ellis, Board Member at Large

Hillary Clinton, in her 2010 Secretary of State LGBT Pride Proclamation recently said, "Let us re-commit ourselves this year to building a future in which every child, whoever and wherever they are, has the opportunity, dignity and freedom to fulfill his or her God-given potential."

I could not agree more and as a mother of a gay 16 year old son who came out when he was 12 years old, I feel very fortunate to have found PFLAG for help. My son and I attended our first PFLAG meeting in March 2010 and from the moment we stepped

through the door we felt welcomed, encouraged and like we finally found a place where we were totally accepted. We also found great information about events around the city such as the GLSEN Prom, Roller-skating Party, Big Gay Garage Sale and Fourth of July Parade. Each event or meeting we attend seems to increase my son's self confidence and overall happiness. Life is always challenging. For young LGBT people judgment is often a daily hurdle at school or work or even at home. As a parent I can only be as happy as my saddest child; so I want my children to be as pleased with their

lives as possible! PFLAG has provided resources, positive role models and a safe sharing environment to help my child feel great about being himself.

One of the sayings I've heard at PFLAG is, "When the child comes out of the closet, the parent goes in!" Regardless of if you are the child or the parent, if you want to get out of that blasted closet, please come in to a PFLAG meeting, it is like stepping into a ray of sunshine on a cloudy day. Come feel the warmth and see the light; together we can work toward bright new day!

### Can You Help Reduce Suicides?

By Lynne Lefebvre

I believe the answer is "yes".

Personally, and within our chapter, there have been lots of inquiries along the lines "how can we help?" In light of the recent attention paid to teen suicides, many of you have been distressed enough to pick up the phone and ask that question.

I'm speaking from my heart here. Many years ago, a dear friend lost her son to a self-inflicted bullet wound to the head. I saw the agony and the ruined

lives that followed this act. The conversations were endless about what we could have done to prevent losing him. My response was to become a volunteer on a suicide line. At the end of a phone I tried to soak up some of the pain by listening and gently nudge the caller to resources or individuals who might be able to effect some healing. I would lay awake at night wondering if I'd done any good. But I knew I had to do something.

What I would ask of each of you today is simply to speak up. Whenever you

hear anything that remotely suggests our families and friends are "less than" whole because of their sexual identity, I want you to stand firm and open your mouths. Let all within earshot hear you say something to negate the damage that is being done. When you're a fragile teenager, wondering if your life is worth living, voices speaking up on your behalf could be the thread that keeps you attached. If you don't have the words, or the courage, come to us - we'll lend you ours.

**"WHENEVER YOU HEAR ANYTHING THAT REMOTELY SUGGESTS OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS ARE "LESS THAN" WHOLE BECAUSE OF THEIR SEXUAL IDENTITY, I WANT YOU TO STAND FIRM AND OPEN YOUR MOUTHS"**



# Brent Rose: Speaker at Lakeview United Church of Christ; Open and Affirming Studies Group

## By Jane Allemang

Brent Rose, Cincinnati PFLAG treasurer, visited Lakeview United Church of Christ in Maineville, Ohio on Sunday, September 26. He was the guest speaker at the Open and Affirming (ONA) Studies Group meeting held after the church service.

Lakeview is a church which went through much turmoil in the process of becoming a church which specifically welcomes gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transsexual individuals. The United Church of Christ denomination is one which tends to be liberal, although each church decides its specific beliefs. On any given Sunday there are zero to several GLBT worshippers at Lakeview. Like many ONA churches Lakeview members are predominately straight. It seems that there are people who go

through a process to earn the ONA designation just because they believe that it makes a statement about their values. It represents an aspiration, a wish to act on their beliefs and a wish for the world to express their beliefs.

For a year and a half each fourth Sunday of the month a group of 15 - 20 adults meet to learn to be more gay affirmative. They have watched pertinent DVDs and hosted speakers. There has been a speaker from Equality Ohio and Brent is the second speaker from PFLAG. Recently the group hosted a panel discussion for three ONA churches in Greater Cincinnati.

Brent spoke to the Open and Affirming Studies Group about the way being

a gay man and being raised in a conservative religious environment have shaped his life. It seems that the self worth he developed in that conservative religious setting contributed to his self-acceptance as a gay man. Brent also explained how he has handled some of the challenges of being gay in a work environment. What most of us will remember is the way his quiet sincerity and humor informed and inspired us. After his presentation, one woman stated that she finally "got it," that being gay isn't a choice. Her friends enjoyed seeing her pleasure at this new learning.

We are grateful for Brent's visit and for sharing his truth with us. Perhaps speaking face-to-face allows speaking heart-to-heart.

For a year and a half each fourth Sunday of the month a group of 15 - 20 adults meet to learn to be more gay affirmative.

## Community Events

**ALTERNATING CURRENTS - 3 - 5 PM**

**EVERY SATURDAY ON WVQC 95.7**

**[WWW.WVQC.ORG](http://WWW.WVQC.ORG)**

**Weekly Gay and Lesbian public affairs radio program featuring news, interviews, music, and information on**

**what is happening in the local community.**



# New Board Member Gina

My name is Gina Ogden Ellis; I am very excited and honored to be one of the new board members for PFLAG. I work at University Hospital Central Test Scheduling as an Access Representative and live in Western Hills with two of my sons, our sweet big old brown dog and fun fluffy mini bunny. My passion is helping others and I feel blessed to have an opportunity to do exactly that each day in my work place. I must confess, I am

an email and Facebook addict, but also come up for air to go walking with friends in our wonderful Hamilton County Parks, find fabulous fresh foods at Findlay Market to cook or attend theatrical productions. I am the proud mama of three sons ages 22, 18 and 16. My youngest son and I began attending PFLAG meetings in March of 2010 because we needed connection to the gay community and support in coming out. The time since has been

life changing! He came out to me when he was 12 and the roller coaster of emotions seemed to peak at that point with lots of ups and downs ever since. Life is amazingly better since joining PFLAG and now we are ready to give back. He is the PFLAG librarian and I am now on the board! We hope to help other parents and children through the coming out process, out of the closet and into the beautiful land of acceptance!

**Chapter Meetings**  
 November 9  
 December 14  
 January 11  
 February 8  
 March 8

# New Board Member Lauren

Four and a half years ago, I began my career at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. I am a technician in research and very dedicated to improving the lives of children.

I am active in the Children's LGBTQA group and enjoy helping to plan outings for us to do outside of the work environment.

I joined PFLAG about 2 years ago as a fresh "out of the closet" lesbian and to adjust to my life changing due to my father becoming transgendered. It's not easy be-

ing accepted as a lesbian and dealing with a parent who has decided to turn everything you know about family upside-down. The support I receive from PFLAG cannot be expressed enough. This year I have assumed the role as secretary and refreshment chair.

I am an active member of HRC and work with the membership and community events committee as well.

Besides my father being transgendered, I also have a gay half brother and a lesbian

aunt. And they say it isn't genetic.

My life has changed forever but the support and friendship from joining these groups has helped me tremendously. One of the best things about the community and becoming active are the friendships that are formed. We may see each other at different meetings as well as social gatherings. The fight to change life for the better is a struggle but the great LGBT friends I have, it can only make it easier.



# Building Bridges

## Marti Kwiatkowski

I was probably the most reluctant president of PFLAG. Linda Arnest, my predecessor, kept encouraging me to take the lead position in our chapter after serving as vice-president. My reluctance was due to the fact that I felt that I was a straight supporter, not a parent, and I wasn't sure I could do justice to the position of president. Linda went so far as to have Mel White, a wonderful GLBT leader nationwide, who was visiting Cincinnati and a guest speaker at our PFLAG banquet, talk to me about what role I could play as president. He made me see how important straight supporters are to the PFLAG community. I truly felt that I didn't deserve this position and felt it should be filled with a PFLAG parent. After talking with Mel, it was clear to me that I could serve and be a catalyst for change in the Cincinnati GLBT community. I accepted the challenge and accepted the presidency in the fall of 2002 and served until the fall of 2005.

After I accepted the position, I was scared to death. I wanted to make sure that I represented our chapter in the community and I wanted to expand our outreach. Coming off the heels of producing a PFLAG video, it was important that our chapter take the lead in getting the support information out into the community via GSA's, libraries, schools, and community groups. In addition, the GLBT community in Cincinnati at that

time was somewhat fractured. So I felt that our mission was to build bridges into the community and help all of the GLBT community come together once again to convey the powerful message of love, acceptance and joy.

Once I settled on a vision, "Building Bridges," I never looked back. Suddenly, I had wonderful, talented support from each board member and the membership at large. So many people stepped forward to help me and show me the way to extend their hands in friendship. And so many organizations, such as the CMC, ISQCCBE, Alternating Currents, GLBT Community Center, and the Pride Committee, etc., stepped forward to support us. We expanded our speaker's bureau, radio talk show appearances, and became a strong presence in the GLBT community. In addition, we distributed our PFLAG video, "Starting the Journey," all over the city, to any and all organizations who were open to our message.

Looking back on this experience has given me greater insight into myself as a person, particularly as I became willing to take the first step to lead this wonderful organization. This experience has changed me both inside and out. Perhaps the most important people to me were our PFLAG parents and friends, who were brave enough to walk into our

meeting, sit down, and tell their stories. This journey has always started with them.

As I watched parent after parent grow and change, I grew and changed. As I watched the GLBT community gather around us, support us, and share their joy at our success, we became a family, a very special family. And because of this experience, I will never be the same. I am a richer, stronger, and more loving person than I ever thought I could be. Somewhere inside myself I knew that if I could think, dream and plan with my heart, everything would be okay.

Things change and evolve in many different ways, and our chapter is no different. And I have always believed that change is good, we may not like it, but in the end, things always turns out for the best. I am forever grateful that I accepted the position of president of PFLAG. I strongly urge others to do the same. I had no special talent or leadership ability. All I had was my heart, a heart that believed that a small group of people could change the GLBT climate in Cincinnati, and I believe we have. And I have truly learned that all things are possible with love, and love is the only thing that matters.

With PFLAG hugs to all of you, and with a grateful heart, thank you for letting me serve such a wonderful organization.

"As I watched parent after parent grow and change, I grew and changed. As I watched the GLBT community gather around us, support us, and share their joy at our success, we became a family, a very special family."



# What if there had been no PFLAG?

## Lynne Lefebvre

Sitting at last month's meeting I was very glad to see more new faces. Young, not-so-young, parent, child, father, single man. On one hand we could bemoan the fact people are still having problems. They or their loved ones not being straight is traumatic and becoming comfortable with this news isn't easy. But, my next thought was ... well, at least they know where to come. We must be doing something right to get our name out in public. I wish we had a huge budget that would enable us to put our name and mission statement on enormous billboards around the city because I know there are people in need of our quiet rooms and warm support. For those who are not computer savvy, it would have to be word of mouth or maybe luck at seeing something about us in the media. For myself, I did search the web despite our son's admonition NOT to seek a support group. We were smart enough, we loved each other, we had a great sense of humor that would see us through. At least, that's the way he saw it. And it did for a while. But then I started to want to be with others who would understand and I didn't know any families like ours.

Imagine that? So eventually, I managed to shove my body through the doors of a PFLAG meeting. There, as many of you know, I felt as if I'd come home. Fully home I learned there were a lot of families out there pretending. To fit in, they would neglect to mention various offspring. Talk about one child but not the other. Mention a boyfriend of a straight daughter, but not the young man who was dating their son, grandson, or best friend. It's taken me many years to fully understand and embrace the beautifully complex, fascinating, endlessly entertaining, and positively loving community that grows out of being different. Now I can say in capital letters "I AM SO GRATEFUL MY SON ROSS IS GAY". It changed our lives so much for the better. And I ask myself what life would have been like had PFLAG not existed? I'm confident that the end result would have been similar - we would have found other folks to be safe with, to celebrate with, but how long would that have taken? How long would it have taken me to find the courage to pickup a banner and march for equal rights? How long to have the balls ('scuse me) to speak before groups at schools, businesses,

churches and proclaim my son was no different than yours - well, maybe smarter and more interesting - but his only unexpected difference was not being able to fall in love with a female? Some people have courage naturally - or maybe they don't experience fear like most of us. I had to learn it. In PFLAG circles I was taught well. Not only was I educated but I had the privilege of meeting those unafraid to speak their truth.

These were ordinary souls who loved passionately - and they weren't about to be quiet about injustice. So, thank you to PFLAG - to the early pioneers who began the group, to the volunteers who continue to open the doors every month. Our mission continues and we work with pleasure to coax you through the door of our meetings.

And maybe, you'll catch that fire. You'll want to test yourself a little - go a step further in speaking up and out. As always, be bold, brave and don't forget to laugh at yourself. That is the key for moi. We must not take ourselves too seriously ... for fear of boring ourselves!

**"But then I started to want to be with others who would understand and I didn't know any families like ours. Imagine that?"**



## Cooking with John

### Whiskey Grilled Baby Back Ribs

2 (2 pound) slabs baby back pork ribs  
 coarsely ground black pepper  
 1 tablespoon ground red chile pepper  
 2 1/4 tablespoons vegetable oil  
 1/2 cup minced onion  
 1 1/2 cups water  
 1/2 cup tomato paste  
 1/2 cup white vinegar  
 1/2 cup brown sugar  
 2 1/2 tablespoons honey  
 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce  
 2 teaspoons salt  
 1/4 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper  
 1 1/4 teaspoons liquid smoke flavoring  
 2 teaspoons Southern Comfort  
 2 teaspoons garlic powder  
 1/4 teaspoon paprika  
 1/2 teaspoon onion powder

1 tablespoon dark molasses  
 1/2 tablespoon ground red chile pepper

1. Preheat oven to 300 F .
2. Cut each full rack of ribs in half, so that you have 4 half racks. Sprinkle salt and pepper (more pepper than salt), and 1 tablespoon chili pepper over meat. Wrap each half rack in aluminum foil. Bake for 2 1/2 hours.
3. Meanwhile, heat oil in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Cook and stir the onions in oil for 5 minutes. Stir in water, tomato paste, vinegar, brown sugar, honey, and Worcestershire sauce. Season with 2 teaspoons salt, 1/4 teaspoon black pepper, liquid smoke, whiskey, garlic powder, pa-

prika, onion powder, dark molasses, and 1/2 table-  
 spoon ground chili pepper. Bring mixture to a boil, then reduce heat. Simmer for 1 1/4 hours, uncovered, or until sauce thickens. Remove from heat, and set sauce aside.

4. Preheat an outdoor grill for high heat.
5. Remove the ribs from the oven, and let stand 10 minutes. Remove the racks from the foil, and place on the grill. Grill the ribs for 3 to 4 minutes on each side. Brush sauce on the ribs while they're grilling, just before you serve them (adding it too early will burn it).

**“Remember, when you no longer need PFLAG, PFLAG needs you”**

## 2010 WALK TO STOP AIDS

### Paul Delph/PFLAG Team

### MARIA SULCER

Another year, Another Opportunity to give!

It was time to organize and put the call out for our group to come together thru donations and walking. All in support of stopping AIDS. Our team always answers the call as more then 20 of us walked to share our support.

The snacks before the walk, the t-shirt and lunch afterwards gave us the fuel and outfitted us on a beautiful

day. We have raised an estimated amount of \$1,500. I can't say a BIG enough thank you to everyone that donates, volunteers, and walks year after year. I know Paul and June Delph are proud of how we continue to support this cause. Another year I feel honored to be a part of what the Delph family have been such a part of over the years. Yet another opportunity to give and receive!



**Team Delph/PFLAG**

Thank GOD for caring people!!



## General Chapter Information & Resources

**Advocacy:** Understanding and participating in advocacy for GLBT concerns at a local, state, national and international level is addressed by our Advocacy committee. If you have anything concerning awareness or participation in advocacy for GLBT concerns please contact our Advocacy chairperson at [info@pflagcinci.org](mailto:info@pflagcinci.org)

**Hotline/Email:** Throughout this section and the entire newsletter you will see references to the hotline and various email addresses. If you ever get confused about whom to contact, you can just use the chapter Hotline or general email address. The chapter hotline can be reached by calling 513-721-7900 and ask for the PFLAG number. The general email address for the chapter is [info@pflagcinci.org](mailto:info@pflagcinci.org). Feel free to use these as your single point of contact for anything related to the chapter. Just keep in mind that depending on your request, the operator/email monitor may need to contact someone else in order to properly address your questions/comments.

**Library:** Your chapter has a mobile library that is open for business at every monthly meeting. The library is an excellent resource that contains many great books and videos that address topics such as homosexual-

ity, homosexuality and religion, coming out and GLBT issues for children and families. You are welcome to borrow any of the books or videos.

**Membership:** PFLAG Cincinnati values your support and interest in the chapter. Your membership supports the activities of the chapter which include purchasing publications for distribution at meetings and events where we are represented, books for the library, dues to National PFLAG and the printing and mailing of this newsletter. The scholarship program is funded primarily through our fund raising events and donations. The membership year runs October 1 to September 30.

**Programs:** Periodically throughout the year at the monthly meetings, a guest speaker will be included in the agenda. In the past we have had religious leaders, doctors, lawyers, financial advisors and GLBT non profit health and support leaders as guest speakers. If you have an idea or would be interested in being a guest speaker send an email to [info@pflagcinci.org](mailto:info@pflagcinci.org).

**Scholarships:** Each year your chapter funds its own scholarship program. The scholarships are awarded annually to deserving members of the community. More infor-

mation can be found at the chapter website, [www.pflagcinci.org](http://www.pflagcinci.org) in the Scholarship Info section or by sending an email to [info@pflagcinci.org](mailto:info@pflagcinci.org). If you are interested in donating to the scholarship fund, send a check to P.O. Box 19634, Cincinnati Ohio 45219-0634 made out to PFLAG Cincinnati, noting in the memo that the check is for the scholarship fund; PFLAG Cincinnati is a non-profit organization with a 501(c)3 status. Your contribution may be tax deductible – seek advice from your tax preparer.

**Speakers:** If you ever need anyone to speak to a group, organization, business, school or church, your chapter has experienced members that have volunteered to speak on behalf of the chapter. Send an email to [info@pflagcinci.org](mailto:info@pflagcinci.org) to make a request or to volunteer to be on the speakers bureau.

**Website:** The chapter has an excellent website ([www.pflagcinci.org](http://www.pflagcinci.org)). There is up to date information about the chapter including things like monthly meetings, information about events and volunteer opportunities. If you have any feedback on the website send an email to [webmaster@pflagcinci.org](mailto:webmaster@pflagcinci.org)

*Want to get involved in the chapter contact a board member for volunteer opportunities*

# General Membership Application

## Membership Application & Address Change Form



PFLAG Cincinnati memberships run from October 1 through September 30. Join or renew now and your membership will run through September 30, 2011.

### Request Type

- New
- Renewal
- Change of Address

### Membership Category

- Individual \$30
- Household \$40
- Supporting \$50
- Contributing \$100
- Sponsoring \$500
- Lifetime \$1000
- Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

- Please contact me for Volunteer Opportunities
- I do not wish to receive email announcements
- Send all mailing blind (will have no references to the organization name on the envelope)
- Please mail paper copies of the newsletter

Make all checks payable to "PFLAG" and mail to P.O. Box 19634, Cincinnati OH 45219-0634. Thank you!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

The chapter newsletter is published four times a year. Issues are posted on the web site with an announcement sent by email. Paper copies are mailed only by request. If you wish to receive a paper copy by mail, please check the appropriate box above.

Announcements of chapter activities as well as those of kindred organizations are sent via email. Posts also include news of interest to PFLAG members, mostly involving GLBT issues. The list averages 3 to 4 announcements per month. If you do not wish to receive email announcements, please check the appropriate box above.