



You Have a Home in PFLAG!

GREENSBORO, N.C.

Vol. 17 No. 7

July 2010

Welcome to PFLAG Greensboro.

We offer a safe, confidential space in which to

Explore our feelings and understandings about the GLBT experience, especially “coming out” and what this means to families and other loved ones, **Listen and share**, as much or as little as you feel comfortable with, knowing that others can understand, and

Welcome our returning members whose love is so healing.

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

PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

Upcoming Events

PFLAG Greensboro

Tuesday July 20th, 2010, 7:30 PM

Ice Cream Sundae and Movie Night
Movie “Anyone and Everyone”

“Parents across the country discuss their experiences having a son or daughter who is gay”

Tuesday August 17th, 2010, 7:30 PM

Discussion topic: “Could the LGBT Human Rights struggle create a new national unity, without any effort to seek uniformity?” Speaker: Reverend Gil Caldwell,
PFLAG National Board member;

Early associate of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr; joined Rev. King in support of civil rights for African-Americans

Special Events

September 6th to 12th

[Southern Comfort Conference](#)

Crowne Plaza Ravinia

Atlanta, GA

Saturday September 25, 2010

[North Carolina PRIDE Festival](#)

Duke East Campus

Durham, NC

http://www.ncpride.org/pride/pride_2010.shtml

[Government Plan to End Homelessness Includes LGBTQ Youth.](#)

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) released [Opening Doors](#), a federal strategic plan aimed at ending homelessness and promising more effective coordination between federal agencies to achieve this goal. Most notably, the report identified LGBT youth as a vulnerable population, recognizing the severe discrimination experienced by these youth when trying to access alternative housing. Estimates suggest the number of homeless youth range somewhere between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth, and roughly 20% to 40% are LGBT.

PFLAG Greensboro

May meeting

Ice Cream and Movie

Tuesday, July 20th, 7:30 p.m.

Friendship Friends

Meeting House

1103 New Garden Road

Greensboro, NC



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Lesbians and Gays
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News Briefs

[Family Medical Leave Extended to LGBT Families.](#)

Under a [new ruling](#) by the U.S. Department of Labor, workers will be able to take family medical leave to care for their same-sex partners' sick or newborn children. The new ruling allows an employee in a same-sex relationship to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave during any 12-month period to care for the child of their partner – even if the partner has not gone through the process of adopting the child. Employees also have the opportunity to take time off for the adoption or care for a foster child, or to care for an immediate family member (spouse, child or parent) with a serious health condition along with the option to take medical leave due to a serious health condition.

Carter Stroupe 1983-2010



Carter McElwee Stroupe, 27, drowned at Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina, on Wednesday, June 30, 2010, following a long walk on the beach. Going to the beach every summer of his life, he spent his last few days at a place he loved surrounded by people he loved.

A memorial service was held Sunday, July 11, 2010, at the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, 501 S. Mendenhall Street, in Greensboro.

Carter's parents, Mac and Linda Stroupe, have been active leaders of PFLAG Greensboro ever since Carter came out at age 13, nearly 15 years ago.

Carter was long active in the Greensboro LGBT organizations, including GLASS, the Greensboro group for gay youth, and the Greensboro chapter of PFLAG. He recently manned the PFLAG table at the Greensboro Pride Festival and attended the PFLAG conference in Salisbury.

PFLAG Greensboro has established the Carter Stroupe Memorial Scholarship in memory of Carter.

Memorial contributions may be made to the PFLAG National Office, 1828 L. Street, NW, Suite 660, Washington D.C., 20036.

News Briefs

[Presbyterians Still Divided Over Gays](#)

(Minneapolis, July 9) A split decision from Presbyterian leaders on two gay-friendly measures guarantees even more debate among the U.S. church's members on an issue they've been divided over for years.

Delegates to the Presbyterian church's convention in Minneapolis voted Thursday for a more liberal policy on gay clergy but decided not to redefine marriage in their church constitution to include same-sex couples. Approval of both measures could have made the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) one of the most gay-friendly major Christian churches in the U.S.

Even the more liberal stance on gay clergy faces more debate before it can become church policy. A majority of the church's 173 U.S. presbyteries must approve it. Two years ago – after years of efforts by supporters – a similar measure was sent out to presbyteries but died when 94 of them voted against it.

Both of Thursday's votes were close. Fifty-one percent of delegates voted to shelve the proposal to redefine marriage as being between "two people" instead of between "a man and a woman," just hours after 53 percent of them voted to allow non-celibate gays in committed relationships to serve as clergy.

[Judge Rules Gay Marriage Ban Unconstitutional](#)

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON (AP) -- A U.S. judge in Boston has ruled that a federal gay marriage ban is unconstitutional because it interferes with the right of a state to define marriage.

U.S. District Judge Joseph Tauro on Thursday ruled in favor of gay couples' rights in two separate challenges to the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, known as DOMA.

The state had argued the law denied benefits such as Medicaid to gay married couples in Massachusetts, where same-sex unions have been legal since 2004.

Tauro agreed, and said the act forces Massachusetts to discriminate against its own citizens.

"The federal government, by enacting and enforcing DOMA, plainly encroaches upon the firmly entrenched province of the state, and in doing so, offends the Tenth Amendment. For that reason, the statute is invalid," Tauro wrote in a ruling in a lawsuit filed by Attorney General Martha Coakley.

Ruling in a separate case filed by Gays & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, Tauro found that DOMA violates the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution.

"We've maintained from the very beginning that there was absolutely no basis for this law treating one class of married Massachusetts couples different from everybody else and the court has recognized that," said Gary Buseck, GLAD's legal director.

The Justice Department argued the federal government has the right to set eligibility requirements for federal benefits -- including requiring that those benefits only go to couples in marriages between a man and a woman.

The law was enacted by Congress in 1996 when it appeared Hawaii would soon legalize same-sex marriage and opponents worried that other states would be forced to recognize such marriages. The lawsuit challenges only the portion of the law that prevents the federal government from affording pension and other benefits to same-sex couples.

News Briefs

[VA attorney general: No equal protection for gays](#)

Ken Cuccinelli, the attorney general of Virginia, told a group of high-school students that "the category of sexual orientation would never have been contemplated by the people who wrote and voted for and passed the 14th Amendment." Cuccinelli was responding to a question about his letter to the state's public universities advising against the inclusion of sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policies.

US Supreme Court: Signatures on petitions are public record

Equal Rights Washington is pleased to share some important news: In a 8-1 Supreme Court Ruling, the Court agreed with the arguments presented by Washington Families Standing Together that signatures on petitions for initiatives and referenda are considered to be a matter of public record.

[Hawaii governor vetoes civil-unions bill](#)

Hawaii Republican Gov. Linda Lingle Tuesday vetoed a sweeping civil-unions bill passed earlier this year by state lawmakers. Lingle said civil unions as described in the bill were so similar to marriage that the issue should be put to a statewide vote. But Steven Levinson, a retired state Supreme Court justice, called that reasoning flawed. "By definition, civil rights can't be defined by the majority. ... By their very nature, individual liberties are intended to be counter-majoritarian," Levinson said.

[Sweeping Government Plan to End Homelessness Includes LGBT Youth](#)

Representatives from PFLAG National's policy team were invited to attend a White House press conference where the [U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness \(USICH\)](#) submitted *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Present and End Homelessness to the President*. A critical mass of federal, state and local government entities along with faith-based and community organizations informed the plan, which aims to end chronic homelessness in the next five years, promising more effective coordination among 19 federal agencies that all work to assist individuals seeking stable housing and economic empowerment.

[NBC to change 'Today' wedding contest after protests](#)

NBC has agreed to change the rules of a "Today" show wedding contest after receiving complaints from gay activists slamming the annual event as discriminatory.

The morning show's "Modern Day Wedding" contest will be opened to allow same-sex couples after network executives met Thursday with representatives from the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

The contest, which got under way last week, has aired for 11 years and allows viewers to vote on which couple will win a wedding that is telecast live on the air.

NBC initially argued that it was excluding same-sex couples because "the couple must be able to be legally married in New York, which is where the wedding will take place." GLAAD countered that New York State legally recognizes same-sex marriages licensed in other states. "NBC mistakenly equated the marriage license with the wedding celebration," GLAAD said in a statement.

"We're thrilled that 'Today Show's 'Modern Wedding Contest' now recognizes what most fair-minded Americans have already concluded - a wedding celebrates love and commitment, whether the spouses are straight or gay," said Jarrett Barrios, president of GLAAD. "NBC heard GLAAD and the thousands of viewers who contacted them. And they have moved to make their contest a truly modern wedding where any couple can share their story ... we encourage qualified same-sex couples to submit their applications."

In a statement, NBC said the network received "considerable response" regarding the controversy.