



PFLAG-Lima, P. O. Box 5571, Lima, Ohio 45802-5571

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Meetings held at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 875 W. Market St.

## **NEXT MEETING**

*There will be no March meeting due to our usual date being Good Friday. Many members will be participating in church services that evening. The next meeting will be Friday April 18.*

## **NOMINATIONS NEEDED**

Know someone who has shown support for the LGBT community in this area? We are looking for nominations for this year's "Friend of PFLAG" Award. It can be an individual, a business, a group, LGBT or straight ally. Send the name and your reasons to the address at the top of this newsletter.

## **LOBBY DAY FOR EQUALITY**

**Lobby Day registration open** – Wednesday, May 14 will be one of the most power-filled days for Ohioans who want equal rights for LGBT people and families. Last year HUNDREDS of Ohioans visited their elected officials to talk with them about equal rights for ALL Ohioans regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. Mothers, fathers, families, clergy members, students—they took a day off from school or work to come to Columbus for the second annual Lobby Day. Lobby Day always makes an impact, but this year happens to be an election year. It's an even bigger deal to make sure our voices are heard. Have you been waiting to get involved? Now is the time. You have a powerful story to tell and your elected leader should hear it. It could make the difference. Lobby Day is your chance to build bridges and meet face-to-face with the men and women who shape state laws that impact our lives and our families. Equality Ohio's first Lobby Day last year was a tremendous success. Overwhelmingly, last year's participants reported they felt well-prepared and that their participation made a real difference.

To register go to <http://eqfed.org:80/equalityohio/events/lobby08/details.tcl>

- **WHAT:** lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Ohioans, their families and allies meet with state legislators
- **WHEN:** 5/14/2008 from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
- **Hosted By:** Equality Ohio 614-224-0400 or [contactus@equalityohio.org](mailto:contactus@equalityohio.org)
- **RSVP by:** May 1, 2008 at 5:00 pm
- **WHERE:** Hyatt on Capitol Square, 75 E. State St., Columbus, OH 43215

## **AND THE OSCAR GOES TO . . . .**

“Freeheld” won the Academy Award for best documentary short subject this year. “So what’s the big deal? Never heard of it.” I hear you say. The 38-minute documentary chronicles the experiences of an Ocean County prosecutor’s investigator, Detective Lt. Laurel Hester, who died of lung cancer in February 2006 at 49. She fought her illness while battling the Ocean County freeholders for benefits for her partner, Stacie Andree.

At one point the documentary shows Lieutenant Hester in a wheelchair at a freeholders’ meeting to ask that her pension be transferred to her partner. The five Ocean County freeholders ultimately voted to extend benefits to same-sex couples.

In 2006, New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine signed legislation extending benefits to same-sex couples under a civil union law. However, Steven Goldstein, president of Garden State Equality, says that more than 2,400 couples in the state have entered into same-sex unions, and about one-fourth of them have filed complaints with Garden State Equality over benefits. He also commented, “Our civil union law is failing; it is not respected like marriage.”

## **FEBRUARY MEETING**

During the Lima PFLAG meeting in February, Forrest encouraged all members to attend the drag show in Ada at Ohio Northern University next year since it was a great time this year. Eight members of Lima PFLAG attended and all had a super time. The members even had seats very close to the stage courtesy of the Open Doors Group - thank you.

Kerry reported that he is still working with Jason and DeMarco (a gay Christian rock/contemporary singing duo) and trying to get them to come to Lima. When they performed in Dayton last year, a few members of Lima PFLAG saw them and they were excellent. It would be great to have them come to Lima!!

The speakers for the night were from Lima/Allen Council on Community Affairs. Judy Luhn began by talking about The Partnership for Violence Free Families (PVFF). The Partnership is a group comprised of 50 individuals representing over 30 agencies, organizations, businesses and schools in the Lima and Allen County, Ohio area. It is located at Lima/Allen Council on Community Affairs (LACCA) and was created in 2001 through a grant awarded by the Anthem Foundation of Ohio. After two years of strategic planning, the PVFF set their goals to prevent family violence through several initiatives: the ACT Against Violence Program, the CAP Program, Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, and Safe DATES.

Parents, teachers, and students participate in a variety of activities to understand these important messages. The faith-based community is also involved in bringing these programs to the community. A report from this partnership was passed out to all members. Judy stated our area is rich in resources and it is important to make the public aware of what is available. To learn more about the above partnership, go to <http://www.pvff.org/>.

Donna Dickman next presented information about bullying. She stated bullying is very under reported. It happens in the school as well as work setting. In the work setting, there is high productivity but also a high turnover rate when the boss is a bully. Donna finds it important to look at kids who are bullies and why they are bullies. It is often a power/control issue. If they are helped as kids, they will not be bullies as adults.

Through an 8 question test from Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, Donna presented information about bullying such as the number of children bullied, how they are bullied, where they are bullied, and how often bullying is reported in the schools. She also presented information from GLSEN and Lambda Legal about GLBTQ youths who are bullied in the school setting. To find out more about Olweus Bullying Prevention Program in Lima and Allen County, go to <http://www.pvff.org/?q=node/10>. For information on the national prevention program, go to <http://www.clemson.edu/olweus/>. For information about GLSEN and the 2005 National School Climate Survey, go to <http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/library/record/1927.html>.

Donna Dickman was interested in speaking to Lima PFLAG since she noticed part of PFLAG's mission is education. She would like to work with Lima PFLAG in helping to prevent bullying in schools in the Lima area. If anyone would be interested in working with Donna Dickman and Lima/Allen Council on Community Affairs on bullying prevention, contact Donna at [ddickman@lacca.org](mailto:ddickman@lacca.org).

Lima PFLAG would like to thank Judy and Donna for all the large amount of information they presented. Come to a meeting to view the resources that were handed out. We look forward to working with Lima/Allen Council on Community Affairs to help prevent bullying in the Lima area.

### **NEED A LITTLE CULTURE?**

If you are looking for something different to do, check out [www.artsinohio.com](http://www.artsinohio.com). You will find a wide range of cultural events around the state—music, drama, art, fairs, and even some things you might not expect. They even have a section for LGBT-friendly or LGBT-related events. Just go to the site and put LGBT in the “What” box. You can also click the search box and a list of categories will come up on your screen.

### **PFLAG and TRUE COLORS TOUR**

**PFLAG National** is excited to announce that we're hitting the road this summer with **Cyndi Lauper** for the second annual **True Colors Tour** in support of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality.

The tour will feature five hours of non-stop music and entertainment by headliners **Cyndi Lauper**, **The B-52s**, and exciting special guests including **Rosie O'Donnell**, **Wanda Sykes**, **Indigo Girls**, **Tegan and Sara**, **Regina Spektor**, **Joan Jett and the Blackhearts**, **Joan Armatrading**, **Nona Hendryx**, **Deborah Cox**, **The Cliks**, and many more.

Hosted by **Carson Kressley**, the tour will visit 24 cities across the United States and Canada from May 31st to July 5th.

The True Colors Tour was conceived by Cyndi Lauper stemming from her desire to give back to the LGBT community for the love and support they have given her throughout her career. The True Colors Tour is a celebration of the basic values and freedoms that should be shared by all Americans regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression. Attendees will experience these values through the music of both legendary icons and the newest and coolest acts this generation has to offer.

Tickets for select cities will go on sale beginning **March 15th** and will be available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). For official tour & ticket information check [www.truecolorstour.com](http://www.truecolorstour.com).

## **PFLAG-LIMA COMING EVENTS**

(Contact Dave at [davbro65@yahoo.com](mailto:davbro65@yahoo.com) for more info.)

**March 15** Deadline for applying for PFLAG National scholarships. Thirteen scholarships will be awarded. For information on how to apply, go to <http://www.pflag.org/Scholarships.1236.0.html>.

**March 15 Deadline for Lima PFLAG Scholarships** Two \$300.00 scholarships will be awarded. For more information, download the scholarship forms on the Lima PFLAG website.

**March 29 & 30** Dayton Gay Men's Chorus Spring Concert at the Dayton Art Institute at 8 P.M. on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 2 P.M. on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be available at the door for \$10.

**April 8 7 P.M.** Dayton PFLAG meeting at Cross Creek Community Church  
Social Time: 7:00 P.M.; Program and Support; 7:30 P/M.; Program: How the PFLAG National office supports our local chapter.

**April 19 PFLAG State Meeting in Warren, OH.** Hosted by the Youngstown PFLAG chapter, program participants will include national PFLAG staff and representatives from state organizations. More information to come later.

## **STAY INFORMED**

**National PFLAG** [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)

**Equality Ohio** [www.equalityohio.org](http://www.equalityohio.org) You can sign up to get the latest news via email.

**Human Rights Campaign** [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)

**For GLBT Issues and Headlines in the News:**

[www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org) [www.planetout.com](http://www.planetout.com) [www.advocate.com](http://www.advocate.com) [www.365gay.com](http://www.365gay.com)