



Parents, Families & Friends of
Lesbians and Gays
(PFLAG) Lima
P.O. Box 5571
Lima, OH 45802-5571
Pflag_lima@yahoo.com

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

NEXT MEETING

Friday February 16— Our speaker will be Dana Dickman, from Lima/Allen Council on Community Affairs (LACCA). She will be speaking on bullying in the work place and schools.

WELCOME PRESIDENT FORREST

Our new president led a lively discussion at the January meeting about the future of PFLAG Lima. He recapped some of the highlights from the past couple years and then asked for input from those present. The ideas covered all the areas of our mission statement--- support, education, and advocacy. There were suggestions related to individual member involvement and some that can be carried out only as an organization. They included service projects, ways to get news about the group out to the public, how to help new folks feel welcome at meetings, getting involved in election year events, getting more people to meetings, making meetings more interesting, social events, and new flexible times for meetings.

Because the group's membership and focus has changed over the past couple years, it is important to determine what our goals will be for the coming year. Robert volunteered to chair the committee to set the goals for the year. If you are interested in working on that committee, let him or one of the officers know as soon as possible. Once those goals are set it will be easier to implement and coordinate all the great suggestions. It will also be easier for individual members to focus their talents in the areas that interests them the most-- support, education, or advocacy.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The information about PFLAG Lima's two \$300 scholarships has been sent to all area schools and universities. The information and forms are also on our website at www.geocities.com/pflag_lima . Please spread the word. If a school has a page of scholarship information on its website, we plan to check to see if information about the PFLAG scholarship is being posted along with information about other scholarships.

Check scholarships being offered by OSU's GLBT Alumni Society at <http://www.osuglbt.org> and national PFLAG at http://www.pflag.org/Scholarship_Programs.scholarships.0.html.

THANKS FROM ARC

After we collected food, personal items, and paper goods at Christmas, we received the following letter. Thank you for supporting this project to help those living with HIV and AIDS.

ARC Ohio would like to express our appreciation for your generosity in supporting our Lima location. You truly did a wonderful thing. Yours is the gift that keeps on giving. As clients come to the office they are able to take toilet paper, tooth paste, canned goods and groceries.

I can't begin to express what your generosity means to so many. The items collected were most definitely helpful and will go to extremely good use. But more than the food and collected items, the client's have expressed their appreciation with the thoughtfulness behind the items collected just for them.

Living with HIV/AIDS can be such a burden but your actions have really lightened the load for many. In this economically difficult time for all of us, knowing we have the support of people like you certainly helps. Please know we won't forget your kind gesture.

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart.

Sincerely,
Joanie Daugneaux
Lima ARC Case Manager

AND THE NEED CONTINUES

It was suggested at our last meeting that instead of waiting to bring a lot of things at Christmas time, we should bring something to each meeting we attend. As you do your usual shopping, pick up an extra can of chunky soup that can be a meal for someone. Or watch the sales and buy a can of fruit or a package of toilet paper to bring. For an extra dollar or 2 your trip to the grocery can provide someone living with HIV or AIDS some healthy food or other essentials. Just as there are those who are still not in a position to come out of the closet, there are also those who are won't or can't to go to a food pantry for help out of fear that someone might discover they have HIV or AIDS. Your donation just might be the only way some people will know somebody still cares about them.

MRS. MAN OF GOD: THE PLAY (from HRC Columbus)

Date: Sunday, February 24, 2008 - 3:00pm

Location: King Avenue United Methodist Church, 299 King Avenue, Columbus

Mrs. Man of God is a funny, music-filled play about the life of a man (Don) who is the partner of a minister serving in a denomination that is not completely open and inclusive of GLBT persons. While many choose to turn away from these faith communities, Don tries to work within his partner's parish and be the best "minister's wife" ever. Stories of connection and exclusion are woven together for a touching journey of this modern-day First Spouse of the congregation – “We each have a role to play in life.” The production is presented by Illusion Theater Minneapolis with original music by Raymond Berg and is sponsored by the Columbus United Methodist Reconciling Churches.

Tickets: \$10.00

They can be purchased in advance. Contact King Avenue UMC. Phone: 614.424.6050

EHEA HELP NEEDED (from Equality Ohio)

In March Equality Ohio will introduce the Equal Housing and Employment Act (EHEA). The Act would ban discrimination in housing, public accommodations and employment based on sexual orientation and gender identity. This is the first pro-equality piece of legislation ever introduced in both chambers of the Ohio Legislature. The grassroots work of citizens will ultimately determine whether the bill has a fighting chance.

Equality Ohio has a goal of collecting 10,000 postcards from citizens in every Ohio county who support the EHEA. They will be put in front of Ohio legislators to prove there are people in every part of Ohio - a lot of them - who support equality.

They have collected 6,000 postcards already, but they are short on cards from this part of the state. How can you help?

1. Send an email to Bo Shuff at bo@equalityohio.org or call him at 614-224-0400. Request your own packet of FIRED postcards. Don't forget to include your name and address. He will mail you a packet of 12 cards—yes, just 12.
2. Then ask your family, friends and neighbors to sign a card in support of the EHEA.
3. Send the completed cards back to Bo. (Equality Ohio will even pick up the postage.) They ask that you gather the cards from people close by so all the cards are from your district.

COMING EVENTS

(Contact Dave at davbro65@yahoo.com for more info)

Friday February 15—PFLAG Lima meeting. Dana Dickman will speak about bullying. Individual support will be available.

Friday March 21—PFLAG Lima meeting—group support and discussion

Wednesday, May 14—Lobby Day—Go with others and talk to your legislators in Columbus. Tell them your story. Let them know how important equality and fairness are so important to LGBT people in Ohio.

STAY INFORMED

Websites:

National PFLAG www.pflag.org

Equality Ohio www.equalityohio.org You can sign up to get the latest news via email.

Human Rights Campaign www.hrc.org

For GLBT Issues and Headlines in the News:

www.pflag.org www.planetout.com www.advocate.com www.365gay.com