



Montana Newsletter

March 2012

Pete Shea, editor

Please share this freely with chapter members. If you have anything to share, please submit information to me.

I. Chapter Information and News for January/February

Please share the activities and plans of your chapter. Send news of what you did last month and what you plan for the future.

Please send updates or corrections for contact and monthly meeting information. If you would like to list a phone number, please send that also.

1. PFLAG Billings

info@pflagbillings.org

billingspflag@gmail.com

Meets second Wednesday of every month

Parents, Friends, and Families of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Billings Chapter will hold a social event on Friday, March 2, 2012 at The Burger Dive from 6:00-8:00 pm. The event is free, open to all who are interested, will include live music from Deryk Cunningham, and artwork from students at Billings Senior High School will be up for raffle.

PFLAG Billings serves to offer support to parents, families and friends of lesbians and gays as well as all members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. We welcome all who wish to participate in dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity. The organization has been active in the Billings community for many years and is now working to raise awareness of its vision to offer support and work toward a community that embraces all.

Check out "PFLAG Billings" on Facebook and like them!

2. PFLAG Butte

cummings1@bresnan.net

Meets last Wednesday of every month

The group is making a 3' x 10' banner which they plan to use when they march in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Butte on March 17 and again in June for the Pride parade in Bozeman.

PFLAG members from any chapter are welcome to join the Butte group in the St. Pat parade!

Check out the Butte chapter's website at: <http://buttepflag.com/index.html>

3. PFLAG Great Falls/Golden Triangle
pbueling@bresnan.net

Meets third Tuesday of every month

February 21 was the annual Mardi Gras / Waffle dinner social. Food seems to attract some of the members that we haven't seen in a while.

The next chapter meeting, 7:00 p.m. on March 20, will be "Healthy Relationships, A Seminar on LGBT Relationships"--An open forum to discuss and learn the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships, an opportunity to learn about the wellness resources that are available in the Great Falls area for the LGBT community.

At MSU College of Nursing, 400 15th Ave. So. (North Doors)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LGBTWellnessSeminarGF>

Email: LGBTWellness@yahoo.com

Phone: 406-771-4443

4. PFLAG Hamilton-Bitterroot

hamiltonbitterrootpflag@yahoo.com or www.pflaghamiltonbitterroot.org

Meets third Thursday of every month

Chapter leaders are busy planning and preparing for the regional PFLAG conference "Big Sky / Big Dreams" next September 21-23. Hamilton members are also meeting with their local school board, seeking to revise policies to protect LGBT persons by enumerating "sexual orientation" and "gender identity and expression" in pertinent policies. Check out www.pflaghamiltonbitterroot.org.

5. PFLAG Kalispell/Flathead Valley

fvpflag@gmail.com 406-219-7180

Meets fourth Tuesday of every month

Another alternative prom, the second in as many years, is planned for April 14, 2012, in conjunction with the GSA at nearby Whitefish High School and possibly a new GSA at Flathead High School in Kalispell.

6. PFLAG Missoula

pflagmissoula@gmail.com

Meets ?

7. PFLAG Bozeman

pflagbozeman@hotmail.com or mgrabbe1008@msn.com 406-579-9102

Meets third Wednesday of every month

8. PFLAG Polson

406-890-6289

Meets last Wednesday of every month

II. Contacts up the "PFLAG-pole" (not to be confused with the publication by the same name):

State: Pete Shea, State Coordinator. sheapete@yahoo.com 406-450-6727

Region: Kathy Reim, Regional Director and a chapter leader in WA State. She is available to brainstorm specific strategies for building a chapter. kreim@earthlink.net 360 856 4676

National: Cesar Hernandez, National Field and Policy Manager for the western U. S.

chernandez@pflag.org

Another good resource is the Pacific Northwest Website where you will find program ideas and information to build a stronger board of directors. <http://www.pnwflag.org/>

III. Chapter Banners. The Butte chapter has purchased a 3' x 10' banner which they will design to advertise their chapter. They plan to use it for the first time in the St. Patty's Day parade in Butte on March 17. They purchased it for \$100 from Adam Mari in Anaconda. His number is 406-490-4091. Although president John is pleased with the final product, next time he would get a pole sleeve on the top rather than grommets, but either way will work. It would be a great idea for every chapter to acquire a similar banner. It would be wonderful to see banners from every Montana chapter in the Pride parade in Bozeman in June.

IV. Books. Retirement and winter have provided an opportunity for lots of reading. Some good books that I would recommend:

1. **Crisis: 40 Stories Revealing the Personal, Social, and Religious Pain and Trauma of Growing Up Gay in America.** Mitchell Gold, editor, with Mindy Drucker. Published 2008. Personal stories contributed by 40 different prominent people relate to religious discrimination, family and community rejection, school and social discrimination, workplace issues, losing a child, sin, and depression, isolation, and fear.

2. **Making History: The Struggle for Gay and Lesbian Rights 1945-1990.** Eric Marcus, editor. Published 1992. This is another compilation of the writings of 45 people who contributed significantly to the struggle for gay rights. Two of the pieces included are from Jeanne Manford and her son Morty. It was the Manford's marching in the New York parade in 1972 that sparked the beginning of PFLAG. This publication provides a great perspective of the scope of the gay rights struggle in the United States.

(I received this book as a gift from my daughter in San Francisco. The man she currently works for is the former partner of the author, Eric Marcus. It's still a small world.)

3. **The Well of Loneliness.** Radclyffe Hall, 1928. This is a landmark book, a classic. Though technically a novel, it is a quasi-autobiographical account of a lesbian life. Banned widely when first published, it was a first step in challenging homophobia. Many of the issues dealt with so well in this novel are still matters of concern after nearly a hundred years.

4. Patricia Nell Warren is an author, a Montana native, and a lesbian. She was the grand marshal for the Pride parade in Bozeman last June. To say that I enjoyed three of her books especially would be an understatement:

One Is the Sun is a historical novel based on the area around Deer Lodge MT where the author grew up. It is the story of a Native American female who leads a group of mostly women in the days when whites were first invading the territory.

The Fancy Dancer is the story of how a young catholic priest in a Montana town struggles with and handles his homosexuality in the 1970s.

The Front Runner, also set in the 1970s, is a love story about a track coach who falls in love with one of his male students who eventually qualifies to run in the Olympics in spite of the public knowledge of the "marriage" between coach and pupil.

V. Security measures.

For security and safety purposes, several policies will be observed in this newsletter:

1. Individuals will be identified by first name only.
2. Meeting locations will not be published. Either a phone number, an email address, or a website will be listed as a contact for each chapter. (Each chapter can specify what kind of contact

information is supplied here.) After an initial contact by the means provided, local PFLAG members can provide meeting locations and times. Hopefully this precaution will prevent problems from showing up unexpectedly at chapter meetings.

VI. Monthly conference call. Just a reminder that the monthly Montana-Idaho PFLAG conference call takes place on the second Thursday of each month. All chapters are invited to have at least one member participate. The purpose of the calls is to improve communication among chapters, provide information, and encourage each other in our common cause.

The conference number to call is 888-645-9266, and the access code is 82723962(#). The March call will take place March 8, beginning at 7:30 MST. The agenda for this call will include, among other things, the regional conference in Hamilton September 21-23.

VII. Reminder: be sure your chapter treasure files the appropriate reports with IRS.

VIII. Montana State PFLAG Council

Our present state PFLAG organization consists of treasurer Kathy Sather, Havre; vice-president John Culliton, Great Falls; and Pete Shea, state coordinator. John has requested more than a year ago to be relieved on this responsibility. Kathy has served for about 7 years and would also like to pass her responsibility on. **If anyone is interested in serving in these offices, please let me know.** Duties are minimal, but we do need officers to continue to be a viable group.

We plan to meet next summer at the Pride celebration in Bozeman to discuss improvements to our state council. Ideally, we should have a representative from each chapter on the council. Please consider how you might contribute to the improvement of PFLAG in Montana.

IX. Other?

If you would like to contribute anything to this newsletter that could be of interest or benefit to members in other chapters, please feel free to share your wealth. Other comments or instructive criticism are welcome.

X. Regional PFLAG Conference, Hamilton, September 21-23, 2012

BIG SKY/BIG DREAMS

PFLAG PACIFIC NORTHWEST 2012 REGIONAL CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATES:

SEPTEMBER 21, 22, 23

HOSTED BY PFLAG HAMILTON-BITTERROOT, MONTANA

PFLAGHamiltonBitterroot.org

Plans are now underway to bring chapters leaders, members and interested community people together for support, education, advocacy and...fun.

Please encourage your chapters to help find resources to send people to this event.

Ideas; ask for sponsorships, combine air miles, have a fundraiser, ask.

People love PFLAG.

**Some of the highlights in the planning:
Presentations by...**

Dr. Robert Minor: The Fairness Project <http://www.fairnessproject.org/aboutus.html>

Jean Marie Navetta: National PFLAG Straight For Equality

Cesar Hernandez: Western Field and Policy Manager

Kathy Reim: Pacific Northwest Regional Director

**Special Guest: Jean Hodges: Chair of Regional Directors: National PFLAG
Lives in Boulder, Colorado**

“Faces and Facets of Transgender Experience”

<http://pflagboulder.org/2011/05/17/3-minute-trailer-for-faces-facets/>

**Hikes led by local people in one of the most beautiful parts of the world in the largest
wilderness area of the lower 48.**

**Entertainment (we have some great ideas) in a lovely conference center- to make you
laugh and think...**

with people who share your dreams of equality for all.

**Please stay tuned for more details. We are working hard to make this
another great conference in the tradition of the Pacific Northwest.**

Kathy Reim
360 856 4676