



THE NEWSLETTER

March 2015

ISSUE 3

VOLUME 22



WE'VE GOT A WINNER

Please join us for our general meeting on **Monday, March 23 at 7:00 pm** at Jewish Family Service, 8804 Balboa Avenue, San Diego.

Our guest speaker is Ian Morton, Senior Programs Advisor at the San Diego Human Dignity Foundation. He is very excited to help coordinate the 2015 PFLAG Scholarship Awards Reception. With plans to hold the reception at an outside venue, the Reception Committee intends to make this a very memorable experience for recipients and guests. Additionally, the event should raise a nice sum

for the PFLAG Scholarship Fund. Ian will fill us in on the details of this unique event. In the meantime, the Scholarship Committee, with the daunting task of having to choose the recipients, is preparing to do just that!



Please join us for our support groups, then our cookie social, followed by Ian's presentation.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE: MARCH 16

The deadline to apply for the PFLAG 2015 scholarships is right around the corner; procrastinators – now is the time! The scholarships will be presented on **Friday, May 15** (mark your calendars) at a luncheon from 11:30-2:00. All the details will be included in the email Bobbi Harwood sends with the March newsletter, as well as the April newsletter.

The scholarship is open to all eligible LGBT high school seniors, grad and undergrad students who live in San Diego County. Visit www.pflag.com/scholarships/ for the application and requirements. For questions, contact scholarship chair, Kim Martinez at kmartinez@pflag.com.

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, April 30 is the annual Dining Out for Life. This fundraiser benefits The LGBT Center for HIV/AIDS services/programs. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Donnie Luehring at dluehring@thecentersd.org or 619-692-2077.

2015 MEMBERSHIPS WERE DUE JANUARY 1

We always like to remind our membership of why it is important to pay dues and continue your financial support: room rental for the San Diego General Meeting, the telephone info/help line, newsletter publication and mailing, scholarship for LGBT youth, PRIDE Parade and Festival, educational books and DVDs, fees to participate in events to provide more visibility in the community, supplies, etc. Please keep in mind, also, that \$15 of each membership is sent to PFLAG National to support them. **If you haven't renewed or joined yet, please help us to support the LGBT community.**

DIFFICULT CHALLENGES

In February, a gay student at Morse High School in San Diego, was beaten by another student. It was captured on cellphone video. The victim was punched in the face at least 10 times and then punched to the ground, as the bully was verbally abusing him. Morse High did not even reprimand the student until two days later. The incident was reported to the school police, who said they will conduct a full investigation. He was arrested and then released to his parents.

PFLAG, GLSEN, Pride and the LGBT Center have voiced complaints to the San Diego Unified School District Board of Education. Further meetings are scheduled to address our concerns and demand a course of action to prevent further incidents from occurring or not being taken seriously. We must be vigilant in our quest to make the world an affirming place for all of our LGBTQ children. Even with love at home and support in some schools, our children hear a constant barrage of negative comments about who they are as human beings from politicians, educators, religious leaders, and misguided family members, friends, and neighbors. What does that do the spirit of a child?

On another difficult note, it is with heavy hearts that we share the grief of one of our members at the loss of his beloved child. We honor those we love by staying committed to making the world a kinder place for all human beings. Thank you for your continued support of PFLAG San Diego County to keep us visible in the community where we offer a beacon of hope and light in the darkness for so many. We can never be complacent. We know too much is at stake.

SeCRT^aRI STILL WANTED

As you can see, the PFLAG Board is still in need of a recording secretary. Be a dear and volunteer. Contact Terrie Vorono at tvorono@pflag.com.

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or go online www.pflag.com (forms available)

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LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, IN LINE

Alexander Flores was the recipient of the **Sempra Energy Scholarship**.

Alex has almost completed his freshman year at the University of California, Los Angeles, majoring in psychobiology. He was also the recipient of a PFLAG National scholarship. While a student at Oceanside High School, Alex had an impressive academic record. In addition, he (and this is only a partial list!) was active in the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Club, Academic League, Girard Prep Program and was also President of the AP (Advanced Placement) Club, President of the GSA-Pirate Pride Club, Treasurer of the National Honor Society, and Founder and President of the Key Club. He somehow managed to have time to be in the school band, tutor students in math/English/ science, and volunteer at St. Mary's Catholic Church. The pièce de résistance was his acceptance as a student intern at Tri-City Medical Center in the Emergency Room, where he completed cover 50 hours of observations, working closely with ER medical staff. Phew!

“Living in a city where there is predominately Latino, African American, and Samoan inhabitants brings with it an ambience of masculinity and manly camaraderie; it does not support LGBT students and ultimately discourages being of the LGBT culture. In addition to the community as a whole, the school that I attend also emulates these aspects. In essence, the toughest issue that I and many other LGBT students have confronted is intolerance for who we are. Many community members

who are unsupportive of the LGBT culture view us as some deviation from normalcy based on uneducated assumptions. Showing the community that we are just the same as they are has been an ongoing issue that I have been concentrating my efforts to enact change. It is not rare to go a day and be constantly degraded by classmates and others. This intolerance has fueled the actions of many to be against LGBT people. The constant derogatory remarks that are said to me have become a norm, this instance of intolerance has always been prominent anywhere I go. In addition, being ostracized by my peers and society has been by far the most hurtful, being detached from others and ultimately feeling lonely and ridiculed. I have experienced all of this because of the intolerance issue that my community has pushed upon me. Early on, I realized something had to be done. I was tired of being ridiculed for being proud for who I was. I set out to change that. As the president of my school's Gay Straight Alliance, I was able to create activities and gay awareness campaigns on my campus to educate my peers and the public about the LGBT community. I also wanted to ensure that future LGBT students would not have to undergo the intolerant actions of the community; in essence, I wanted to create a safe haven for future students. I accomplished my goal of teaching the students by revealing to the student body the importance of being nonjudgmental through the campaigns; this cultivated their minds to be more accepting of others' differences. There has been an evident change in the attitude of others. Even now, I am in the process of helping coordinate an event on

campus for teachers to become more aware of LGBT students; I will be speaking about the issues that I have confronted as a LGBT member in my community

As I pursue education in college, I intent to utilize my educational resources and networks to become more involved in the LGBT community and provide support for LGBT people in my surrounding area. My biggest goal is to establish a support system for LGBT students who deal with the everyday complications that we are faced with in the community. As a student who is pursuing higher education, I can be the role model to those who yearn to attend a higher education. I will inspire them to reach their goals and be successful. I will utilize my education as a foundation to reach new opportunities to better the LGBT community and create awareness in the world. As an aspiring emergency room doctor, I am determined to bring awareness of the LGBT culture to the medical world. To create an emphasis on health for LGBT people so that there is more inclusiveness to all the different groups of society is my ultimate goal.

As a member of a single parent household with low income, this scholarship will provide me with the financial need to continue fulfilling my passions in school and to break down the financial barrier that could potentially prevent me from success. In addition to the monetary aspect, the PFLAG scholarship will reinforce my drive to make a positive impact on the LGBT community and generations to come. With my motivation and determination, I will enact much change in the LGBT community.”

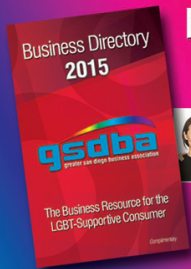
NO KIDDING

Lawyer Matt McLaughlin filed

a notice with the State of California that he intends to circulate an initiative measure that would call for the death

of anyone who engages in sodomy in California. McLaughlin proposes to kill “sodomites” to prevent God’s “utter destruction” a la Sodom and Gomorrah. He is also seeking to

ban “sodomistic propaganda” and would fine offenders \$1 million per occurrence and/or up to 10 years in prison and/or banishment for life from California. Keep you posted!



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UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mar 16, Apr 6, 20: Mi Familia Support Grp Patti: 619-227-6092

April 12: South Bay Support Grp Patti: 619-227-6092

Apr 6: North County Coastal Support Group Annette: 760-518-3345

April 13: East County Support Grp Bob: 619-334-8214

Luan D. Andrews, M.A.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST MFC 19321

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