

September
2016

The Presidents Letter



BUTLER COUNTY PFLAG

Monthly Gazette

Dear PFLAG Friends,

I would like to thank everyone who has been fighting hard with us on the Butler City Non-Discrimination Ordinance. I personally would like to give a big thank you to Sabrina Schnur who has been working so hard with me on this fight. I'm pleased to announce that the City of Butler will be voting on this ordinance on October 27, 2016. Again, we need everyone's support at the meeting. Please bring your family and friends to the meeting. The City Council needs to see and hear our voices.

The Butler Fall Festival was another success! We had so much support and the public thanked all of the Board for having a PFLAG chapter here in the city of Butler.

October is our membership drive. Please consider in becoming a member. We also take donations, which are tax deductible. Please help us help others.

For the next two months, I'll be getting our new President, Patrick Campbell, trained to take over the chapters Presidents position. He's got some great ideas coming to this chapter. I'm so excited to see the changes in the upcoming months.

PFLAG Butler is having it's first Halloween party on October 29, 2016 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at M&J's Lounge 124 Mercer Street, Butler PA 16001. This is also my Stepping Down party. It's going to be hard to say good bye after leading this chapter for almost 6 years. Knowing I'm leaving the chapter with such a great group of talented individual's makes me feel relieved. I have learned so much from so many great people which has me ready for my next chapter in my life.

Sincerely,

Joshua Sean Crawford

Butler Non-Discrimination ordinance

Anti-discrimination ordinance to be voted on this month

On October 27th, the City of Butler will finally have a vote on the Butler Non-discrimination ordinance. We first brought this to the City council in June and we have been there speaking every month since that time.

A lot of things have happen since then. We have spoke and have had allies of ours to speak at the City council meetings. Some pastors and religious people have been there to every month. We have had meetings and phone/E-mail conversations with allies from around the area. This has been a very hard fight. But now, it is now time to be heard.



We still don't know the vote count. All we know for sure is that we will be trying to persuade the Council to vote for it. But the opposition will also be trying to get them to vote against it. With a meeting with one of the anti ordinance people, I know the opposition has threaten to sue the city if they pass it. I

was also told that they will vote out the council people that voted for it. So people, if you really want this ordinance passed, you must

- Come out to the meeting.
- E-mail the council.
- Call the city building.
- Write a Letter to the Editor
- Register to vote

As I have stated before, If this ordinance gets voted down, we will have to wait, at a minimum, 2 years. It will more likely longer than that. Their will be NO political will to revisit this topic. Worst than that, the other township in the area will be reluctant to give it any consideration either since they will see what happen with the city.

So, save the date. Make plans to be there. Get your friends and family to come too. We are close to getting this pass, but we need you to be there and show them that the citizens of Butler wants this.

Remember, if your don't fight for your rights, then don't complain that you don't have any rights. No other minority got there rights without fighting for them. We must fight and fight hard to have our rights too.

Here are the E-mails for everyone:

- Mayor Thomas P. Donaldson citymayor@Cityofbutler.org
- Michael E. Walter michaelwalter@cityofbutler.org
- Kathy Kline writerbug@zoominternet.net
- Corey D. Roche coreyroche@cityofbutler.org
- Kenny Bonus kbonus@cityofbutler.org

Also, if anyone can write a letter to the editor in support of the ordinance, it would be very helpful.

letters@butlereagle.com

Please Register to vote. This election will be very important for the LGBTQ community. Anti LGBTQ laws that our going to be voting on, Supreme Court nomination, and possible even our own ordinance could be overturned if it gets passed this year. So, get registered and go vote.



2016
VOTER REGISTRATION
DEADLINE

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 11



Register TODAY at
register.votesPA.com



Come Out, Come Out, Whoever You Are: Why Oct. 11 Matters To LGBT People

It's Pride Weekend here in Atlanta, one of my favorite weekends of the year. It might seem odd to you that the largest Pride festival in the South and one of the largest in the country is in October and not June. I guess it kinda is, but not really, once you think about it.

I could dive into a long, technical story about the massive drought Atlanta had a few years ago that forced the organizers to negotiate for time in Piedmont Park with the other Class "A" Festivals and find times on the calendar that would minimize environmental impact and how all of that went down, or I could go with the more symbolic reason the second weekend in October was chosen: It coincides with National Coming Out Day. (C'mon, that's pretty cool.)

National Coming Out Day



**20th Annual
October 11, 2013**

National Coming Out Day is, in my book, one of those days that doesn't get nearly the attention it deserves. Observed on Oct. 11 every year, it commemorates the National March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights. That march was one of the first times we got to control the story on AIDS and protest the Supreme Court's homophobic decision in *Bowers vs Hardwick*. Basically, we've got history with Oct. 11. It makes sense.

Lots of folks ask why we still need a National Coming Out Day. Simply, it's because we live in a world where people still need to come out. We live in a world where everyone is assumed to be straight and cis until proven otherwise. We live in a world where our sexualities and our genders are pushed on us long

before we ever have a say — oftentimes long before we're born. So, in order to correct the record, we have to come out.

Coming out is the single most powerful political tool we have. It's been proven time and time again that simply knowing someone who's L, G, B, T, or Q can be enough to reduce fear and hatred. We've all seen the politicians who've become champions for equality once a family member comes out. Many of us have probably seen it with the people in our own lives.

It's a lot harder to take away or deny someone's rights when that person is your best friend, your sibling, or your child.

So if you're able — and let's be honest, coming out can be very dangerous for some — come out. Some folks have it easier than others, it's just the nature of the game. But once the hard parts are over, wow, I mean, wow. Being able to be yourself without reservation brings a peace and calm like no other. I've never met anyone regrets coming out.

And if you're not able, for whatever reason, to come out now? OK, keep yourself safe. Do what you need to do to survive and plan for the day when you will be able to proclaim who you are without fear or reservation. In the meantime, take on the role of a good ally. Speak out and echo the community's messages when you feel safe enough to do so. Every single one of us has been where you are. Take your time. You'll be OK.

I admit I get a bit sentimental when Pride comes around. Now I'm going to get sappy. National Coming Out Day is a reminder that the best way to change the world is to become the person you needed when you were younger.

How different would your life be today if you had someone who was like you that you could look up to? Think about the possibilities! We can do that. We can make that happen for someone else. Sometimes all you have to do to make that happen is to come out — and that's reason enough for me to celebrate. Happy National Coming Out Day!

Robbie Medwed is an Atlanta-based LGBT activist and educator. His column appears here weekly. Follow him on Twitter: @rjmedwed

OUR MISSION

By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision through:

- Support for families, allies and people who are LGBTQIA
- Education for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQIA
- Advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQIA



City Council	Oct 27
PFLAG Meeting	Nov 6
Halloween Party	Oct 29

To be able to speak at the City Council Meeting, you must fill out the form and submit it in person, regular mail or fax on the Friday before the general City Council Meeting before 4:30.

Here is a link to the form

<http://cityofbutler.org/images/forms/persontoBeheard.pdf>

The fax number is

724-285-6880

This Month Quote

A mediocre idea that generates enthusiasm will go further than a great idea that inspires no one.

Mary Kay Ash



Rada Fundraiser

We are like every other organization out there, we need funds to keep doing all the things we do for the LGBTQA community. We also realize that everyone



Items that are available for purchase:

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- Oak Blocks Sets
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- Soy Wax Candles
- Cookbooks

Order On-line at
www.helpourfundraiser.com

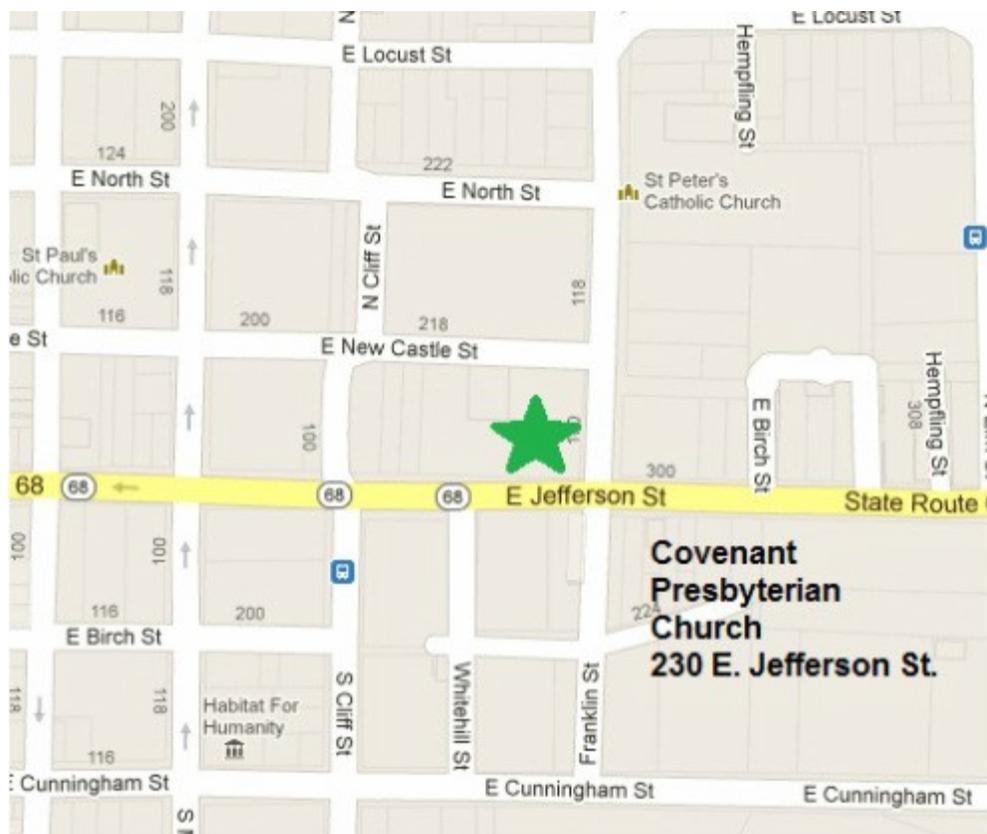
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**First Sunday of the Month Meeting Location:
Covenant Presbyterian Church
230 E. Jefferson Street, Butler PA 16001**



Our monthly chapter meetings are the first Sunday of the month from 5:00-7:30pm.

Covenant Presbyterian Church
230 East Jefferson Street
Butler, PA 16001

If you have any questions about our meetings, program format, location, or any other questions, please call our information hotline at (724) 290-9674 or email us at: info@pflagbutler.com

Directions:

There is **plenty** of on-street parking and a FREE parking lot across from the church. When entering, please attempt to use the door located on Franklin Street, next to the Butler Junior High in the alley. We also have a handicapped accessible entrance in the ally next to the Butler Junior High School.

SUPPORT: TO COPE WITH AN ADVERSE SOCIETY

I need help with:

- Feeding my family.
- Becoming a volunteer.
- Getting taxes done.
- Avoiding eviction.
- Caring for my grandmother.
- Keeping my heat on.
- Joining the workforce.
- Finding a summer camp.
- Protecting a friend.

I can help with:

- All of the above.

Dial 2-1-1.

It's your friendly-community-24-hour-professionally-staffed answerline for help with human services. If you need help, info or referrals, call 2-1-1 first.

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SNYDER COUNTY

INFORMATION AND HOTLINE NUMBER

724-290-9674

Please contact us at the above number if you need assistance and/or information. This service is intended for those who need help and have general inquiries about our services. We will strive to make the necessary connections you require!

Helping Hands Relief & Recovery Program

The Helping Hands Relief & Recovery Program exists to help people who are victims of unforeseeable tragedies such as storm damage, vandalism, and other circumstances. It was created in order to help people begin to put their lives back together after difficult situations.

A part of the mission states that PFLAG Butler County will stand by you as long as it takes and assist you in any way possible.

If you need someone to help shovel your driveway or sidewalks, we will be there. If you need someone to help clean up your yard after tree branches have fallen down, we will be there. If you simply want to talk to somebody, we are there.

For more information, to take advantage of this program or to be a volunteer, please contact Joshua Crawford, at president@pflagbutler.com. For more information, please visit our website at www.pflagbutler.com and click the "Helping Hands Program" tab.

[TrevorSpace](#) is a social networking site for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth ages 13 through 24 and their friends and allies.



EDUCATION: TO ENLIGHTEN AN ILL-INFORMED PUBLIC

Butler PFLAG Library



We currently have 45 books in our library to lend out. Please browse thru our collection and see if you would like to borrow one of our books.

<http://www.librarything.com/catalog/PFLAGButler>

Contact the Info E-mail to request a book:

info@pflagbutler.com

*If you have any LGBT books that you no longer want,
please consider donating them to our library*

PFLAG EDUCATION



Members of PFLAG, enjoy free monthly training sessions, presented by PFLAG National! Go to:

<http://community.pflag.org/webinars>



Are you straight, but not narrow? Do you have a love for the greater good, for the idea that we are all created equal? We are looking for straight men and women to help us spread the word of love and acceptance for all of us. JOIN US!

PFLAG is the nation's largest grass roots based family organization providing support, education, and advocacy for GLBT individuals, families, and allies.

straight
FOR
equality



■ Butler

PFLAGbutler.com

■ Greensburg

PFLAGgreensburg.org

■ Pittsburgh

PFLAGpgh.org



Helping Diversity Thrive

Cranberry Township PA

diversity@cranberrytownship.org



Butler
LGBTQ
Interfaith Network

Find us on Facebook

M & J's Lounge

724-602-8447

VOICE

1-800-400-8551

Victim Outreach
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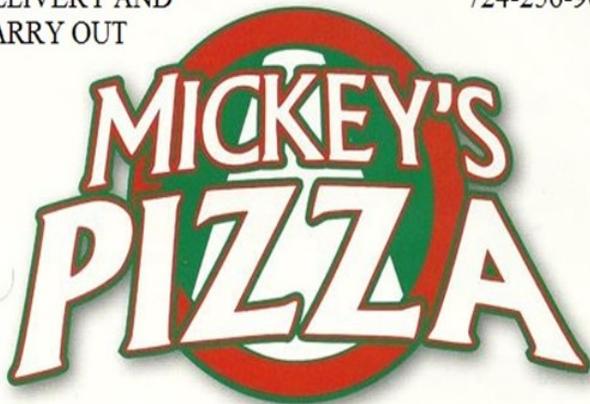
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Jane Street Foundation

Professional Counseling & Inner Healing Retreats

Debra A. Flint, LCSW

412-496-7129

Ellen V. Garbuny, LSW

Licensed Social Worker
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724-283-1593

ellenvg@gmail.com
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amana.psyd@gmail.com

Recovery is Reality



**Irene Stacy Community
 Mental Health Center**

112 Hillvue Drive
 Butler, PA 16001

724-287-0791

**PFLAG BUTLER OFFICER'S
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newsletter@pflagbutler.com

James Smedley, Communication

Justin Lewis, Events Coordinator
events@pflagbutler.com

PFLAG BUTLER INFORMATION

There are many ways to get in touch and stay in touch with PFLAG Butler.

Web Address

www.pflagbutler.com

www.twitter.com/pflagbutlerco



Email

info@pflagbutler.com

www.facebook.com/pflagbutlerco



Telephone

724-290-9674

PFLAG Butler County

P.O. Box 1631

Butler, PA 16003



Did you know you can donate to PFLAG Butler County through online shopping?

Goodshop is an online shopping mall that donates a percent of your purchase price to your cause when you shop at one of 3,000+ partner stores including top retailers like Amazon (1.5% donation), Expedia (up to 5% donation), and Staples (2.5% donation). You can also find 25,000+ active discounts and money- saving coupons so you can save money and give back at the same time!

By shopping for the things you were already going to purchase, you can also help PFLAG Butler County! The donation is at NO ADDITIONAL COST TO YOU! Simply sign up at <http://www.goodsearch.com/> and select PFLAG Butler County as the organization you would like to support! We thank you!



**Shop at AmazonSmile
and Butler PFLAG will get a
donation from Amazon.**

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-1342540>

