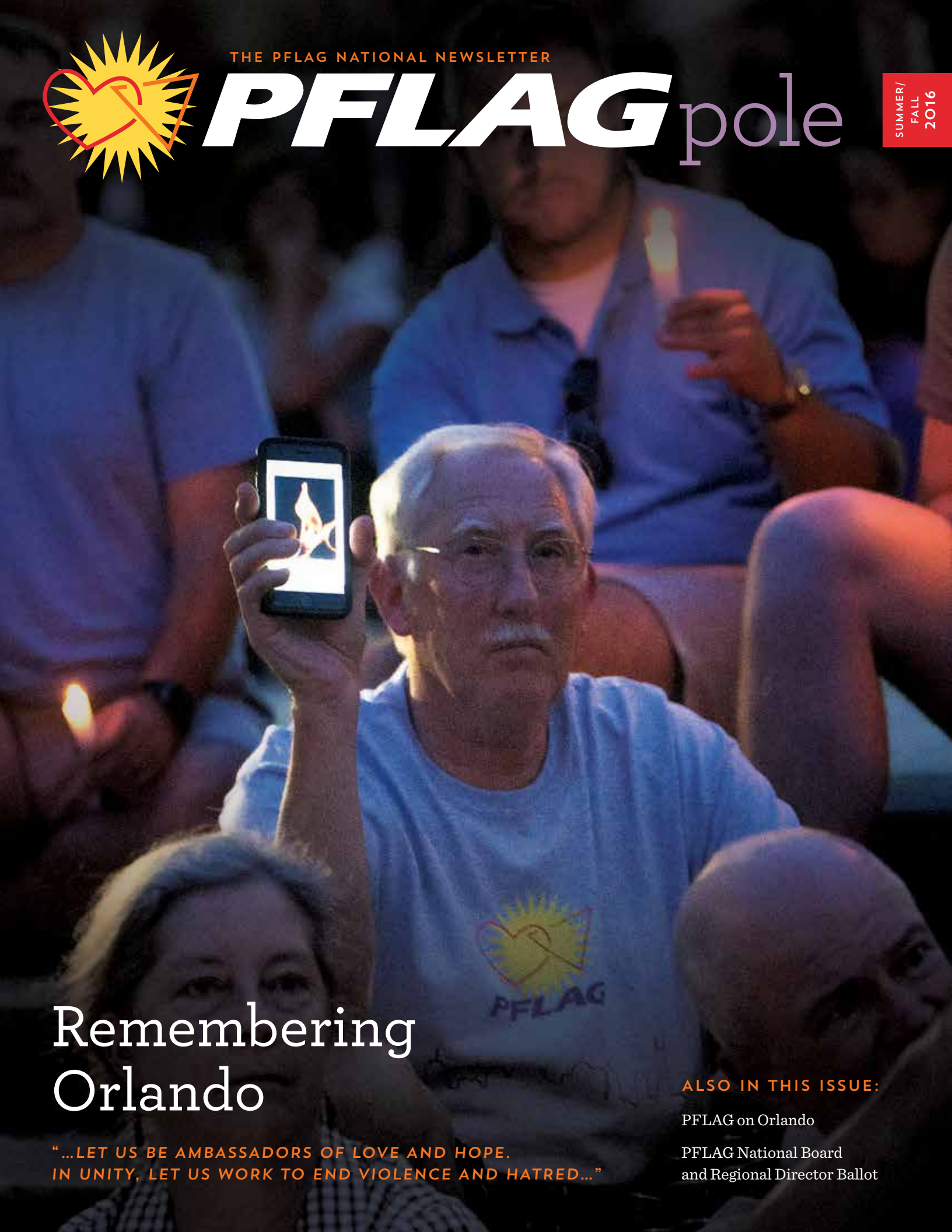




THE PFLAG NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

PFLAG pole

SUMMER/
FALL
2016



Remembering Orlando

“...LET US BE AMBASSADORS OF LOVE AND HOPE.
IN UNITY, LET US WORK TO END VIOLENCE AND HATRED...”

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

PFLAG on Orlando

PFLAG National Board
and Regional Director Ballot

PFLAG on Orlando

PFLAG National staff work tirelessly to support PFLAGers everywhere. Here, personal insight into their own emotions about Orlando, even as they continue that work.



Elijah Perry

My thoughts about the tragedy in Orlando can be expressed by four words:

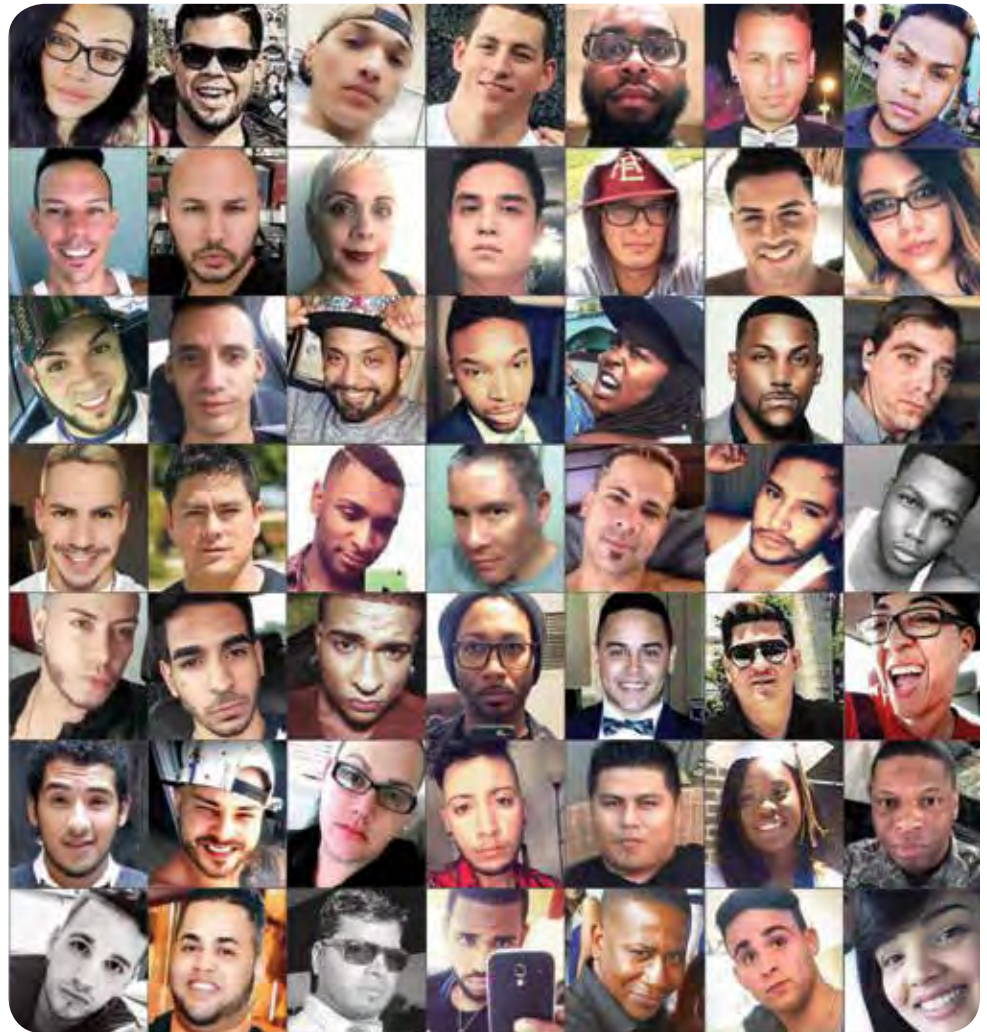
disappointment, heartache, anger and confusion. Disappointment that, after so many milestones towards equality, places we call safe havens for fun and laughter are not so safe after all; heartache that we are still counting bodies of victims and tears of families due to violence; anger that families and friends are forced to deal with the pain of losing loved ones to this senseless act of hate and terror; and confusion that as the nurturer to many, I am unable to ease the pain of grieving hearts, including my own.

I lost a great friend and confidant in Shane Tomlinson. Shane was a person of strong faith, ambition, and character... and only 33 years old. A smile and a presence that would brighten any room, a laugh that would lighten any mood, and a heart that would give unselfishly to anyone in need have all been silenced. And though news reports have helped my mind understand how this happened, my heart still struggles with, "Why?"

My colleague, Beth Kohm, sent me a piece of scripture she felt might help comfort Shane's family; it has since become my own personal mantra, the only response in my daily search for answers:

[John 16:22] So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

RIP Shane.



#SomosOrlando

Stanley Almodovar III (23)
Amanda Alvear (25)
Oscar A. Aracena-Montero (26)
Rodolfo Ayala-Ayala (33)
Antonio Davon Brown (29)
Darryl Roman Burt II (29)
Angel L. Candelario-Padro (28)
Juan Chevez-Martinez (25)
Luis Daniel Conde (39)
Cory James Connell (21)
Tevin Eugene Crosby (25)
Deonka Deidra Drayton (32)
Simon Adrian Carrillo Fernandez (31)
Leroy Valentin Fernandez (25)
Mercedes Marisol Flores (26)
Peter O. Gonzalez-Cruz (22)
Juan Ramon Guerrero (22)
Paul Terrell Henry (41)
Frank Hernandez (27)
Miguel Angel Honorato (30)
Javier Jorge-Reyes (40)
Jason Benjamin Josaphat (19)
Eddie Jamoldroy Justice (30)
Anthony Luis Laureanodisla (25)
Christopher Andrew Leinonen (32)
Alejandro Barrios Martinez (21)
Brenda Lee Marquez McCool (49)
Gilberto Ramon Silva Menendez (25)
Kimberly Morris (37)
Akyra Monet Murray (18)
Luis Omar Ocasio-Capo (20)
Geraldo A. Ortiz-Jimenez (25)
Eric Ivan Ortiz-Rivera (36)
Joel Rayon Paniagua (32)
Jean Carlos Mendez Perez (35)
Enrique L. Rios (Jr.) (25)
Jean C. Nives Rodriguez (27)
Xavier Emmanuel Serrano Rosado (35)
Christopher Joseph Sanfeliz (24)
Yilmery Rodriguez Solivan (24)
Edward Sotomayor Jr. (34)
Shane Evan Tomlinson (33)
Martin Benitez Torres (33)
Jonathan Antonio Camuy Vega (24)
Juan P. Rivera Velazquez (37)
Luis S. Vielma (22)
Franky Jimmy Dejesus Velazquez (50)
Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon (37)
Jerald Arthur Wright (31)

#WeAreOrlando



Diego M. Sanchez, APR

The Orlando mass murder aftermath leaves a city's people shaken yet visibly united and strong, whether LGBTQ, Latinx, both or neither. The archipelago of memorials is bridged as inspiring, queerly creative, Latinx loyal, and patriotically powerful, for the U.S. and for its territory that calls for its own identity, Puerto Rico.

I call the Dr. Phillips Center for Performing Arts lawn memorial site a Global Lawn of Love. Each person whose life was taken has a tender piece of unabashed warmth in the form of photos on placards. The Lawn of Love bursts with Bible verses, LGBTQ pride proclamations, personal statements, and even mentions of military service. I contributed to the memorials of two people taken, both a friend and a colleague's friend. I felt blessed to be there to honor this unrequested legacy.

Stigma remains; healing awaits. People who believe their loved ones were not LGBTQ were quick to say so. I said, "All lives are equal; they were all loved people and family members to someone." That was often met with, "It's the music of PULSE on Latinx Night." That made me think of how people embrace an oasis: some drink, some face splash, others head douse. PULSE was an oasis, and there were no labels to impede entry, whether patrons sought community, friends, music, libations or love. Healing comes, but it takes people who love, trust and care with skills to re-build bridges and extend hands that others welcome. And I'm honored to have been part of the movement forward in Central Florida's healing that grows far beyond the Global Lawn of Love but that also remains there—right across the street from the meeting place of PFLAG Orlando. Presente.



Jean Marie Navetta

When your work focuses on getting in front of people and teaching them how to be allies, how to have effective conversations, and how to meet people where they are, there is zero space for anger, never mind rage.

And yet, writing this just a week after Orlando, that's what I'm dealing with.

In the time since this nearly unimaginable attack on our community, I continue to grapple with how to manage the rage that the incident—and the fallout—has caused.

How can you not feel anger when politicians immediately attempt to make the deaths of 49 people into self-congratulatory fodder? How do you not be furious as you read Facebook post after post from other people who are LGBT who say that while a child falling into a gorilla cage started

countless discussions at work, the deaths of 49 people like them brought on complete silence from coworkers? How do you remain accepting when people question why people who are LGBT need their own bars anyway? And how do you gracefully continue on when the lives of so many people like you have radically changed, and so few people seem to notice how or why because this is now old news, or their focus has moved elsewhere?

The answer: We carry on. We behave better than our detractors. We focus on love, and not hate. We find ways to set the anger aside.

It's easier said than done; my patience for those who refuse to become active change-makers (both outside and inside of the LGBT community) feels lower than ever. And maybe that's not a bad thing. But what a very hard way to learn the lesson.

PFLAG Responds to Orlando

In the midst of profound tragedy, we find hope, and PFLAG chapters across the country have been providing hope in the form of vigils, support meetings, and other events in response to the June 12th shooting in Orlando, which targeted LGBTQ people, primarily those of Latinx descent.

PFLAG is love in action, and the activities of our PFLAG family demonstrate that concept powerfully. We would like to give special thanks and encouragement to our incredible PFLAGers in Florida—especially PFLAG Orlando who are at the center of this tragedy—all of whom are working tirelessly to keep hope and compassion abundant in their communities.

Here are just a few of these events which highlight how extraordinary PFLAGers are, how bold and courageous, how full of the loudest love. Thank you for your compassion and solidarity.



Washington

PFLAG Skagit hosted a candlelight vigil and a free viewing, with a discussion, of “Puzzles,” a documentary about how a small community responds to an attack at a gay bar. PFLAG Kitsap co-hosted a vigil on the 13th while chapters in Bellevue and Seattle attended a similar event in Cal Anderson Park.



Colorado

PFLAG Denver held a candlelight vigil for Orlando victims at Cheesman Park, a site chosen for its historic significance to the Denver LGBTQ community. There were over 2,000 in attendance at this moving event.



California

PFLAG Bakersfield held a successful fundraiser, and staff spoke at a vigil held June 15th. PFLAG Temecula is planning a vigil for July 4th to pointedly stand for LGBTQ freedom and protection on Independence Day.



Texas

PFLAG El Paso organized a press conference, put together a candlelight vigil and a GoFundMe campaign, and organized a multifaith event with Muslim and Christian faith leaders. At PFLAG Seguin's vigil, 49 paper doves were created in honor of the victims, and attendees brought candles in memoriam.



Hawaii

In Hawaii, PFLAG members organized a vigil on the beach and hosted a “story group” to discuss and process. Members were also involved with Lei of Aloha for Orlando, a project which involved weaving a mile-long lei, decorated with 49 shells bearing the names of those who died, as an expression of solidarity and aloha from Kauai to Orlando.



Michigan

PFLAG Detroit worked with Affirmations, a local organization for LGBTQ people and allies, to bring a vigil to the Detroit area. Over 500 people showed up to stand with them in power.



Illinois

PFLAG Charleston met at Coles County Courthouse on June 16th “to mourn the loss of life and to call for an end to violence and intolerance.” PFLAG Downers Grove also hosted a memorial which involved a creative tribute.



New Jersey

PFLAG Collingswood was involved with a vigil during which 49 white balloons were released for the 49 victims. PFLAGers contributed to another solidarity event—“Stand Up Against Hate”—which featured words from prominent officials and clergymen.



Georgia

PFLAG Brunswick organized a vigil a week after the tragedy. The local paper had this to say, “They are embracing the spirit of unity, fully putting into force a mission to support and advocate on behalf of the parents, families and friends of those in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities, in this time of terror and confusion.”



North Carolina

PFLAG Greenville co-organized a vigil which drew over one thousand attendees. Rev. Rod Debs, whose church hosts local PFLAG meetings, spoke at the event: “We have all suffered since this crime. We are all the same, and yet there are so many beautiful differences in society.”



Florida

PFLAG Orlando has been involved in a number of vigils—one with around 50,000 people in attendance—and is working tirelessly to support their community and share resources for coping. PFLAG Tampa Hispano held a fundraising event, and PFLAG Polk County held a candlelight vigil where they released 49 doves in honor of the 49 lives lost.

Online

PFLAGers shared their stories, including a piece from PFLAG parents Lori and Bob Hollander. Entitled “What Parents of Straight Kids Will NEVER Understand About Orlando,” their story has gone viral—in both English and Spanish.

Read the Hollanders’ story, and more on Orlando, at pflag.org/orlando.

2016 Annual Meeting Online

Save the Date: October 27, 2016.

For information about the 2016 Annual Meeting Online, please go to pflag.org/annualmeeting

In accordance with election procedures approved by PFLAG's National Board of Directors, board nominees were screened and recommended by PFLAG's Nominating Committee, pursuant to the organization's bylaws. Seven board members are elected by the membership. Two seats are up for election this year, and the candidates' profiles appear on the upcoming pages. Member-elected board members are elected to serve a three-year term.

Regional Directors' seats will be elected at the same time. Five seats are up for election this year, and the candidates' profiles appear on the upcoming pages. You may only vote for the candidate who represents the area in which you live. Regional Directors are elected to serve a two-year term.

To cast a vote, check your choice of candidates and return the ballot to PFLAG National. Your ballot must include the mailing panel (located on the reverse side of the ballot) to verify eligibility. Ballots which cannot be identified as being cast by a member in good standing will be disqualified. Members in good standing include all individuals of a household whose dues are current. All members may use the same membership number for voting. Please photocopy the ballot and the mailing panel for multiple members of the same household.

Your ballot—on the bottom of page 7—must be received by September 15, 2016.

Results will be reported on Saturday, September 17, 2016 on the PFLAG National website—pflag.org—and at the PFLAG Annual Meeting to be held online on Saturday, September 17th.

Board Members



Robert Marchman is Executive Vice President of the Market Regulation Department's Legal Group at the

Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). Prior to FINRA, Robert worked at New York Stock Exchange Regulation and, prior to that, was a Branch Chief in the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's Division of Enforcement in Washington, DC. Robert served as Chairman of NYSE Diversity Council, and at FINRA, serves on the Executive Diversity Leadership Council. Robert is a magna cum laude graduate of Allegheny College, received his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, and attended Harvard Business School's Program for Management Development. Robert is the recipient of numerous awards including *Savoy* Magazine's 2016 List of Top 100 African-Americans in Corporate America, Rainbow PUSH/Wall Street Project 2016 Diversity Champion Award, and Upstanding's 2016 Top 100 Ethnic Minority Executive Power List.



Latoria J. Farmer is the Executive Director, Diversity and Corporate Responsibility for KPMG LLP. She is a leader with more

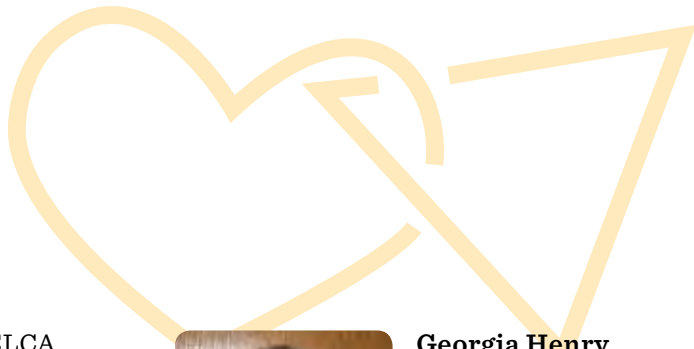
than 18 years of human resource and business experience, and she advises the Management Committee and Board of Directors on the firm's diversity priorities, and opportunities to integrate diversity and inclusion into the overall business strategy. Tori's passion is to cultivate and sustain a diverse and inclusive workplace to optimize talent, drive innovation and support business outcomes. As a workplace solutions leader, Tori has worked on Employer of Choice priorities including work life effectiveness, diversity and inclusion, mentoring and sponsorship, performance management training, and employee volunteerism. Prior to joining KPMG, Tori was an HR generalist with regional responsibility for the total talent management process.

Regional Directors



Conal Charles was born and raised in Mumbai, India. In 2005, he came to the United States on an MBA scholarship and, after completing

his degree, moved to Atlanta for work. In 2009, he found his local PFLAG chapter in Atlanta and some wonderfully



supportive parents who helped him greatly with his own coming out journey. Their support inspired him to continue his work with PFLAG. He joined the board of PFLAG Atlanta in 2010 and has since served two terms as chapter co-president. Conal currently works at Hewlett-Packard Enterprise. In his free time, he loves reading, fitness and traveling.



Dawn Holt is the mother of a 28 year-old gay man who is the inspiration for her work in the LGBTIQQ community. Dawn

is President of PFLAG Portland which includes PFLAG Portland Black Chapter and PFLAG Portland East County. Dawn has served as the Pacific Northwest's Regional Director for two years with the goals of increasing the gigantic region's communication strategies while personally getting to know Chapter leaders and members. Dawn also serves on PFLAG National's Diversity and Inclusion Task Force.



Julie Wilson is a former PFLAG Fort Collins/ Northern Colorado chapter president who, along with her husband Craig, spends half the

year in Arizona and half in Colorado. She recently retired from Hewlett-Packard, and is an experienced leader with skills in management, software and communication technologies. Julie is active in the Colorado Coalition of PFLAG Chapters and writes the chapter newsletter. She has been a speaker at Colorado State University, was a member of the Diversity Council of Thompson R2J schools, did Safe Space trainings for

HP, and is working with her ELCA Lutheran congregation to become a welcoming church. Julie and her spouse have two sons, one of whom is gay and married, and she is the proud grandmother of a beautiful granddaughter.



Karen Neiman became involved with PFLAG Sacramento about seven years ago after her son came out. She has served on that board for eight years and has been involved in fundraising and youth scholarships. She is married and the mother of two sons, ages 23 and 20.



Georgia Henry, PFLAG Milwaukee President, joined PFLAG in October of 1999. She is retired from her job as a supervisor of Sales Statistics

& Marketing Analysis at Rexnord LLC, where she worked for 37 years, and now works part time at Bronze Optical. In her spare time, she enjoys family, cooking, crocheting, knitting, and PFLAG! Georgia is the oldest of eight children, has been married to Dave for 45 years, and has two sons, Nathan and Ahren, who both live in Waukesha, WI.

OFFICIAL BALLOT



Return this ballot to:
PFLAG National
Attention: 2016 Ballot Collection
1828 L Street, NW, Ste 660
Washington, D.C. 20036

PFLAG NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Please vote for two by placing a check mark next to the candidate's name.

- Robert Marchman
- Latoria J. Farmer

PFLAG NATIONAL VOLUNTEER REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Please vote for the candidate representing the region in which you currently reside by placing a checkmark next to the candidate's name.

- Conal Charles:** Gulf (AL, FL, GA, MS, PR)
- Georgia Henry:** Northern Plains (MN, ND, SD, WI)
- Dawn Holt:** Pacific Northwest (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA)
- Karen Neiman:** Mid-Pacific (Northern CA, NV)
- Julie Wilson:** Mountain West (AZ, CO, NM, UT, WY)

All ballots must be received by September 15, 2016.

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