



# Bridging the LGBTQ+ and Allied Communities

Volume XXXVII, Number 3 — March 2017

## QUARTERLY MEETING

### Program on March 9: Legislative Update

Thur., March 9  
7:30 p.m.  
One Colorado

The program planned for January, which had to be cancelled due to adverse weather, has been rescheduled for **March 9**. Our speaker will be Daniel Ramos, Executive Director of One Colorado, and his subject will be an update on Colorado legislative issues, the 2017 legislative session, and the status of LGBTQ protections.

Daniel graduated from Sterling High School and attended the University of Colorado at Boulder. He graduated with a degree in sociology and Spanish and holds a Certificate in the Study and Practice of Leadership. Throughout his college career he was involved in many local, state, and national organizations. His involvement in the University of Colorado student government led to his election as Student Body President in 2009. During his term, he advocated for many diversity and sustainability initiatives, including a program that established CU-Boulder as the First Zero-Waste Student Government in the United States.

Prior to joining One Colorado, Daniel served as an organizer for the Stonewall Democrats' "Elect-Equality" Initiative. As an organizer in

Palm Springs, CA, he executed an aggressive field plan to recruit, train, and manage volunteers to facilitate voter engagement. He also returned for graduate studies at the University of Colorado School of Public Affairs, and earned a Masters of Public Administration in May 2014.



Before becoming Executive Director at One Colorado, Daniel served as Deputy Director, Director of Safe & Inclusive Schools, as well as the Political and Organizing Director — managing the safe schools program and leading One Colorado's work to mobilize, educate, and engage the LGBTQ community around important issues.

The meeting of the New Families Support Group will be held on March 2. The speaker was unable to come on that date, hence the switch to March 9. The program will begin in the Community Room of the CHUN Mansion at 7:30 p.m.

Look for us on Facebook!



News & Views, published monthly, is the official newsletter of

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## OUR VISION

*PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.*

## 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 LGBTQ
- Education for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ
- Advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ.

## PFLAG Denver's Scholarship Program

By Steve Lee-O'Neal and Sara Winter

The chapter's scholarship program is entering its seventh year, and we want our membership to be well informed about this important program.

### History (by Sara)

PFLAG Denver's Scholarship Program was initiated in 2010 under the leadership of Deborah Stone. The goal then, as it is still, was to recognize, assist, and encourage young people who had demonstrated outstanding direct support to the LGBTQ community and who had advocated equality for all. "One or more \$1,000 scholarships will be offered in 2011 to exceptional Colorado high school students, with the expectation that they will continue to create meaningful change on their campuses and in their communities," read the news story. Outstanding LGBTQ students and straight allies were to be rewarded and encouraged to continue post-secondary education, while promoting a positive image of LGBTQ youth. A special logo, shown at right, was designed for the program.

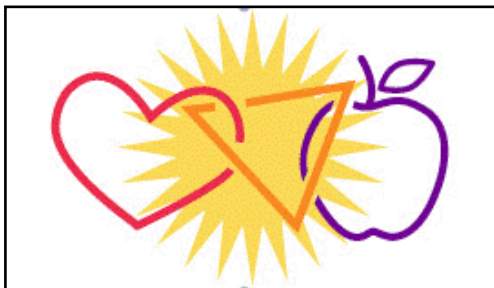
That first year the committee designed, wrote, packaged, and addressed by

hand the application materials which were mailed to 50 GSAs at local high schools. The response from Denver metro high school seniors was terrific. The first three scholarships were awarded on May 5, 2011, each for \$1,000.

When 2013 rolled around, the committee was delighted to receive three times as many scholarship applications as they had anticipated. That year the Tom and Elinor Lewallen Memorial Scholarship was created, and, thanks in large part to a very generous donation from Elinor and Tom's son Dean Lewallen, the winner of that award received a check for \$2,500, and three other awardees received \$1,000 each. Four scholarships, in the same amounts, were awarded in 2014 and in 2015.

In 2014 eligibility was extended to college freshmen and sophomores as well as high school seniors, and to those who would be attending trade or vocational school after high school graduation.

In 2015 Deborah Stone turned over the chairmanship of the scholarship committee to Steve Lee-O'Neal. (Continued on p. 2)



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# Calendar of Events

## March 2 & 8

PFLAG Denver Support Groups  
CHUN Mansion, 1290 Williams St.

**Mar. 2** – New Families/Regular Group

**Mar. 8** – Transgender Circle

**Mar. 8** – Latino/a Support Group  
All at 6:30 P.M.

## March 9

PFLAG Denver Program  
CHUN Mansion, 7:30 - 8:30 P.M.  
(See article, p. 1)

## March 10-11

Denver Gay Men's Chorus Concerts  
(See News & Notes, p. 3)

## March 12

We Are One Colorado Tour in Arvada  
(See News & Notes, p. 3)

## March 20

Newsletter Deadline  
Send copy to [winternye@gmail.com](mailto:winternye@gmail.com)

## March 29

Board of Directors Meeting  
CHUN Mansion, 6:30 P.M.

## March 30

Confidential Comedy at The Center  
(See News & Notes, p. 3)

## Newsworthy Items

### From National's The PFLAG Voice

Longtime PFLAG member, chapter leader, and former national board member Dr. Kay Heggstad, passed away on January 13, 2017. Within just a few short days, her self-penned obituary – followed up with further details from her family (a “minority report” obituary from her loving husband, Dr. Paul Wertsch) – went viral. Kay was the mother of Gregory Wertsch, the husband of Mark Ferrandino (former Colorado Speaker of the House) and grandmother of their daughter Lila Augusta Ferrandino.

You can read the full obituaries at <http://blogs.mprnews.org/newscut/2017/01/wisconsin-doctor-was-worth-two-obits/>.

### New LGBTQ Resource Guide

One Colorado has compiled a new resource guide for the LGBTQ and allies community. This tool has information on local and national suicide prevention hotlines, name change for transgender Coloradoans, marriage equality and relationship recognition, complaints against law enforcement, and much more.

## Meet New Board Member Courtney Carag

Courtney “Crow” Carag was appointed to the PFLAG Denver Board of Directors in 2016 and was officially voted in at the Annual Meeting on Feb. 2.

Courtney is a licensed naturopathic doctor and acupuncturist and owner of Healing Village Collective in Denver. She is an activist dedicated to increasing access to competent and appropriate healthcare in all forms. She enjoys teaching students of numerous medical traditions as well as giving presentations that help businesses, healthcare providers and families better understand and serve the LGBTQ+ community.

“Crow” is the regular facilitator of the monthly Transgender Community Circle.

She also enjoys gardening, sewing, and dancing!



### **Scholarship Program** (Continued from p. 1)

Under Steve's leadership, the committee set the audacious goal of doubling the amount of the scholarships, to keep up with rising college costs. To achieve this goal, a mega-fundraiser was held in February 2016, which raised more than \$22,000. That spring \$10,000 was awarded: the Tom and Elinor Lewallen Award recipient received \$5,000, and two other students received \$2,500 each.

The second mega-fundraiser, held earlier this month, raised over \$43,000! After February 28 (the deadline for applications) the committee will start the difficult process of winnowing the applicants and ultimately choosing a very few for the coveted awards, to be presented on May 4, 2017.

### How the Process Works (by Steve)

We send information out to all high schools and other types of schools statewide in the fall. We make a few follow-through calls, and I'm calling all the schools this week, too, to make sure that they know how to apply. The scholarships are for students who identify as LGBTQ and straight allies. We never know how many applications we will receive until after the application deadline, which is the end of February. Last year we had the most applications we've ever received, I think we had 16 total.

Our committee's rigorous process uses a rubric that gauges each student's application. The rubric helps each committee member rate the application questions and essays using a point scale. The committee rates the scholastic record and community work levels, and the applicant's scholastic and other listed plans and goals too.

The essays are where the committee really gets to know each applicant, and the essay responses are key in receiving an

award. When a student provides thorough essay details, we can really see the type of leaders they are, and how much they give back to their own schools, fellow students, and the community. The first essay asks the students to describe their community involvement, their roles in each activity, and any special awards or recognition they have received in the past four years. Additional consideration is given to activities and leadership roles relating directly to LGBTQ youth and communities.

Using three essay questions, we ask the students, based on their unique life experiences, to tell us what challenges they've faced, or obstacles they've overcome that have resulted in personal growth. We ask them to describe how they have demonstrated leadership both in and out of school. And finally we ask the students to describe their personal passion for social justice and diversity, what they achieved in promoting equality and anything else that will help us understand why they deserve a scholarship.

After the committee has identified the top six students, the finalists complete a phone interview by the committee, and then the top three students are identified. This step is arduous, and it's becoming quite difficult as we receive more qualified student leaders each year!

### Conclusion

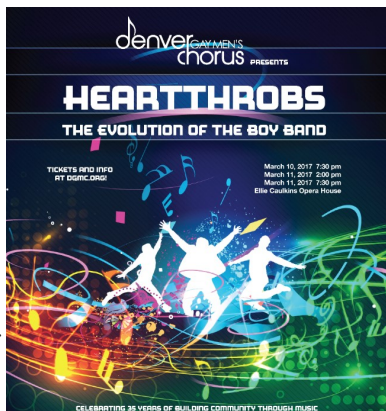
This tremendous outlay of effort and dollars accomplishes a great deal more than just helping a limited number of LGBTQ-friendly students achieve their college dreams. It puts PFLAG Denver on the map throughout the state (since materials for applications are sent to all high schools), and elicits interest in our worthy goals far beyond the chosen recipients.



# News & Notes

The Denver Gay Lesbian Chamber of Commerce **Monthly Breakfast Series**, to be held on March 2, 7:30-9:00 a.m., at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 3203 Quebec St., will present, "How Businesses Are Responding to an Active Shooter." Fees required, register online at [www.denverglc.org](http://www.denverglc.org).

As part of its 35th anniversary season, **The Denver Gay Men's Chorus** will present **Heartthrobs: The Evolution of the Boy Band!** at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House at the Denver Performing Arts Complex, on March 10-11. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday. Included will be numbers popularized by The Beatles!, Boyz II Men!, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons!, The Jackson Five!, The Backstreet Boys!, \*NSync!, and so much more.....These iconic men in music have helped shape the evolution of what has become known as the boy band. The 130-member Denver Gay Men's Chorus will perform with a five-piece band to celebrate these nostalgic groups of guys. This will be a show worth coming out for! Tickets are on sale at [DGMC.org](http://DGMC.org) for \$33 (a \$75 VIP Reception Package is also available), or call 303-325-3959.



The **We Are One Colorado Tour** will take place in Arvada on March 12, with the event starting at 6:00 p.m. at the First United Church of Arvada, 7195 Simms St. In December, One Colorado, the state's leading advocacy organization for LGBTQ Coloradans and their families, launched its We Are One Colorado tour, to travel the state and, at stops in 13 different cities, to talk about how to build on – and protect – our victories and continue to advance equality for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer Coloradans and their families. In January the Tour made stops in Aurora and Colorado Springs, and its February schedule included Fort Collins, Denver, Aspen, Grand Junction, Boulder, Breckenridge, Pueblo, and Sterling. The last two stops, after that in Arvada, will be in Durango and Telluride.



On March 30, 5:15 - 7:30 p.m., join comedian Eric Henderson and local attorney Maha Kamal for an evening full of ethical entertainment at The Center, 1301 East Colfax! **Confidential Comedy** is part comedy show, part improv sketch, and all legal humor! Each performance will have an ethical "moral of the story" to teach/remind attorneys about certain ethical pitfalls in a hilarious way. Food and drinks will be provided by the Denver Bar Association Young Lawyer's Division. Questions, contact Alex Ray at [www.aray@glbtcolorado.org](mailto:www.aray@glbtcolorado.org).

## KEEPING UP WITH CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### Support – Education – Advocacy

**SPEAKERS' BUREAU** – We had a speaking event at the Anythink Library in Thornton on Feb. 18.

**HELPLINE**–The office and Helpline received 15 calls in January.

**SUPPORT GROUPS** – Three people attended the New Families Support Group meeting on Feb. 2,

facilitated by Deb Gabriel. As for the Trans Community Circle led by Crow Carag, in January there were 11 in the group, and in February there were 7. One person came to the February Latino/a support group led by Blanca Leos.

The **FEBRUARY ANNUAL MEETING** was attended by 12 people.

## BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

### Supporting Partnerships –

#### **Bill Coleman Entertainment**

[www.bubbletower.com](http://www.bubbletower.com), [stretch@stiltwalker.com](mailto:stretch@stiltwalker.com)  
303-922-4655

#### **Denver Psychotherapy Care**

Tony Miles, Ph.D., 720-205-9752  
[Tony@DenverPsychotherapyCare.com](mailto:Tony@DenverPsychotherapyCare.com)  
[DenverPsychotherapyCare.com](http://DenverPsychotherapyCare.com)

#### **Erica Johnson, Estate Planning Attorney**

950 S. Cherry St. #1650, 303-321-1267  
[erica@ambler-keenan.com](mailto:erica@ambler-keenan.com)

#### **Tim Wilson, Family Service Counselor**

Fairmount Mortuary, Cemetery & Cremation Services  
303-399-0692, [twilson@fairmountcemetery.net](mailto:twilson@fairmountcemetery.net)  
\*\*\* 10% back to PFLAG on all pre-need contracts \*\*\*

#### **Sharon S. Russell, D.D.S.**

3300 E. First Ave. #580  
303-320-1640, [linda@friedmanrussell.com](mailto:linda@friedmanrussell.com)

### Basic Partnerships –

#### **Trilogy Financial**

Wade Frisbie, Financial Advisor  
[Wade.frisbie@trilogyfs.com](mailto:Wade.frisbie@trilogyfs.com) – 303-999-1847  
101 University Blvd., Ste. 450, Denver 80206

## Statement from PFLAG National

By Beth Kohm – (paraphrased)

Welcome to 2017.....

We are the people who carry on the legacy of a brave woman standing in the street with a sign, driven by pure love.....

One of the most famous comments from openly gay, African-American civil rights pioneer Bayard Rustin is that of his concept of "angelic troublemakers" in communities. But to really understand what he was asking people to do, you've got to read the full context. It is the PFLAG call to action in dark and hostile times:

"We need in every community a group of angelic troublemakers. Our power is in our ability to make things unworkable. All we have is bodies. We need to tuck them, tuck them, tuck them, in places so that the wheels don't turn."

Let us be clear: PFLAGers will not allow the wheels of injustice to roll over anyone on our watch.

This is our legacy, and together we're living up to it, no matter what comes our way.

We are in this together. In the upcoming months, look for new resources, actions, and tools to help stop the wheels of injustice in your community. Our Unity and Inclusion Policy, approved unanimously by the PFLAG National Board of Directors, expresses our commitment to action to achieve equality and inclusion for everyone, and to recognize that to meet this goal, we need to work alongside others with the same mission – especially those with whom we may have not connected before.