



WE ARE THE CHANGE



KANSAS CITY

October 25 – 27, 2019

2019 PFLAG NATIONAL CONVENTION

Past Convention Workshop Examples

The PFLAG National Convention is a great place to immerse yourself in a culture of learning. But learning only happens when great advocates and practitioners share what they know. So if you're considering submitting a workshop and looking for examples of what's been offered in the past, here are just a handful of sessions offered at the 2017 PFLAG National Convention in Portland, OR.

Affirmative Parenting: The Important Role Parents Play in Reducing Risk Factors for Transgender and Non-binary Youth

We hear all the time that parental support is the most important factor influencing a transgender, non-binary or gender-expansive young person's health and well-being. In this workshop we'll review some of the data about the risks transgender and non-binary youth face, including suicide, non-suicidal self-injury, depression, and disordered eating. Then we'll review the research showing the powerful role that parents play in the positive mental health outcomes for transgender and non-binary youth. Presenters will outline concrete actions parents and caregivers can employ as they seek to support the young person in their lives, leaving participants feeling empowered with tangible steps they can take to help their child and/or other parents. Finally, we'll have an open Q & A time to discuss the questions you have and implications that evolving understandings of gender have for you and your PFLAG experience.

A Progressive View of the Bible

To be gay, lesbian or transgender *and* Christian can sometimes seem like an oxymoron. It is not. This workshop will look at the seven passages in the Bible which have spawned much of the homophobia in this country. We will begin to understand why some religious people and their MIS-interpretations of the Bible are dangerous. The workshop is intended for people who wish to learn more about where homophobia was born, it is for Christians, non-Christians, atheists, agnostics, Buddhists, and Jews, and everyone in between. The goal will be recognize that to be Christian and a member of the LGBT community is not in conflict but in complete alignment.

Family Acceptance within Families of Color

Four parents of LGBT children from Asian, Latin, Native American, and African American backgrounds will share their stories of transforming parent's fear, shame, and guilt into unconditional love and acceptance for their children and the broader LGBTQ community. Participants will discuss the challenges and successes in building acceptance in their families, extended families, and communities that have own unique challenges of cultural and language barriers. Participants will also develop a deeper understanding of family dynamics, gain strategies, resources, and support to create stronger connections within their families and the LGBTQ communities they are part of or serve.

From Yankees to Y'all: Supporting LGBTQ Youth in K-12 Schools

In what ways do the school experiences of LGBTQ+ students in the Northeastern and Southern parts of the United States differ? What are the best ways honor local climates and demographics when working to support both students and educators in K-12 schools? Join chapter leaders from GLSEN New Hampshire and GLSEN Tennessee as they present data from the 2015 School Climate Survey, share stories about the experiences of LGBTQ+ youth and the educators who support them, and demonstrate the work they do in their home state's schools.

Growing a PFLAG Chapter in a Conservative Rural Area

Establishing a PFLAG Chapter in a conservative rural area has its challenges. This workshop will explore the questions that need to be asked and the steps necessary to create and grow a chapter. Participants will leave the session with an understanding that establishing and running a PFLAG chapter in a conservative rural area has challenges and rewards. Participants will learn how to determine the need for a PFLAG chapter, gather members, and locate a safe space to meet. They will also learn how to grow a chapter in a sometimes unfriendly environment while keeping the meeting a safe and loving space.

"Religious Liberty" Exemptions: Bad for Religion, Bad for LGBTQ Rights

Religion is being abused and turned into a license to discriminate against LGBTQ people in a range of contexts across the country. Although so-called "religious liberty" laws have been met with public outcry—including from people of faith who reject such a definition of religious freedom—attempts to legally allow child welfare providers to discriminate based on their religious beliefs have gone largely unnoticed. This workshop will provide an overview of "religious liberty" laws and how activists can help defeat them, including by effectively engaging with affirming faith organizations. We will use adoption and foster care non-discrimination work and legislation like the Every Child Deserves a Family Act as a case study, while also exploring legislative and legal attempts to use religion to discriminate.

When Things Fall Apart: Negotiating Leadership Challenges in our Chapters

PFLAG is predicated on the notion of family, and an idealized notion of family at that. But what do we do when the "family" becomes dysfunctional? This workshop will tackle the thorny challenges of negotiating leadership changes, managing conflicts and disagreements within a chapter, and making sure our chapter tool boxes are filled with solid tools to help weather the inevitability of change. Come prepared with questions and concerns about challenges your Chapter is experiencing, and let's create a safe space for honest discussions that can lead to real solutions.