



EGN

Erie Gay News



PA Dept of Education sets up Bullying Helpline

HARRISBURG Feb 29, 2016—Secretary of Education Pedro A. Rivera today announced a partnership with the Highmark Foundation and the Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention to operate the Department of Education's Bullying Prevention Consultation helpline.

The helpline serves as a resource to Pennsylvania students, families, and schools to help them develop strategies to address bullying and resolve bullying situations.

The Highmark Foundation has provided \$30,000 to help operate the line, as well as create posters and resources for schools in Pennsylvania to post in their buildings.

The Bullying Prevention Consultation Helpline is 1-866-716-0424. Messages can be left 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and will be returned Monday-Friday during normal business hours.

Erie LGBTQIA Groups Join Together for March for Babies

from Alex Spbon

On Sunday May 1st, several Erie-based organizations that serve the LGBTQIA community are joining together to help another organization, March of Dimes. The team, which will consist of members from NWPAPride Alliance, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, LBT Women of Erie, The Table, Erie Brothers and Sisters, and TransFamily of Erie are excited to help March of Dimes, which helps improve the health of babies. Everyone is encouraged to wear either their organization's shirts or rainbow colors.

Anyone interested can visit www.nwpride.org

If you are unable to walk, donations will be accepted. If you are unable to donate, please consider walking.

The march is held on Sunday May 1st at Penn State Erie – The Behrend College. Registration starts



Working on some hot moves at the Flaming Hearts Dance Mar. 13 held by Mercyhurst LGBTQIA. More photos on our website. Photo: Mike Mabler

at 11am at the Junker Center (4701 College Dr - Erie, PA 16563) with the march starting at 1pm.

All questions and concerns can be directed to Alex at asphon@nwpride.org or by calling (814) 314-9075.

Erie Transgender Day of Visibility

from Daye Pope, Equality PA Trans

Please join us in Perry Square on March 31 at 6:30 PM for International Transgender Day of Visibility. This year's theme of #MoreThanVisibility

Visibility is important and it is not enough. We must take action to ensure that all transgender people can live fair, dignified lives. Come with your poems, your stories of discrimination, and any other experiences you want to share with the group as we #ShineALightOn discrimination towards our community. Also, if you're comfortable, come visible with TRANSPRIDE signs, stickers, posters, etc.

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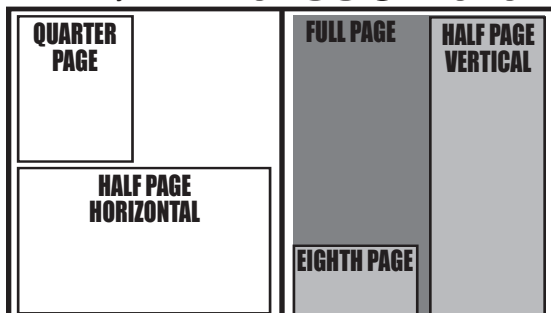
Editor: Mike Mahler
Assistant Editor and Layout: Deb Spilko
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Deadline for next issue: Apr 15; Folding and distribution is Tue, April 26 at Griffin Room at Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel.

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The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information, and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people (GLBTs), their families, friends, and supporters in the Erie PA area.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments, and opinions of interest to local GLBTs for publication in these pages. Please include your contact information with any piece you submit.

EGN Rates & Data



AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$30 - \$27 Prepaid	1 5/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
QUARTER	\$50 - \$45 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 2 7/8" wide
HALF VERT.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	7" high X 2 7/8" wide
HALF HORZ.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 6" wide
FULL PAGE	\$160 - \$144 Prepaid	7 1/2" high X 6" wide

Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month. Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES. All hardcopy ads submitted will be reproduced as close as possible.

Erie Gay News is now included in **The EBSCO *LGBT Life***® with Full Text Index & Six LGBT Archives **WORLDWIDE!**

THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel for hosting! Andrea, Bill, Crystal Ciallella, Kim, Matt Pepicello, Rex Apps, Richard Guy, and Valerie Miles for folding; Andrea, Bill, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Kim, Matt Pepicello, Rex Apps, Richard Guy, and Valerie Miles for distribution; Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

Bear Run Weekend



Exclusive
After Hour
Private Event



**Thursday, April 7th
11pm**

Karaoke, Maxi's Cafe at
the Clarion Hotel Lake Erie

**Friday, April 8th
11pm**

Locker Room Theme Dance
with DJ Tony Ruiz in the
Clarion Bel-Aire Ballroom **\$5**
per person

Saturday, April 9th, 7:30pm

Furry Feud Game Show in the **\$5** per
Clarion Bel-Aire Ballroom person

**Splash
LAGOON**

**Private Water
Park Event**

10pm til 2am **\$40** per
person



Drenched Fur 12
is sponsored by
HeftyNet.com

**Sunday, April 10th
9am-11am:**

Bear Vendor Mall open to locals,
Foyer of the Clarion Hotel Lake Erie



For more info, visit: www.drenchedfur.com or call: 1-814-446-2327

Community News

Southern Tier Trans Network to Suspend Operations

from Helen Walther

The Southern Tier Trans Network regrets to announce that regular support meetings and other activities will be suspended for the time being due to health issues. We will still provide one on one peer support when it is requested.

There were no transgender specific resources in Jamestown and vicinity when this group was first formed. A few of us saw the need and established this group. The community now has alternative sources for support in the area.

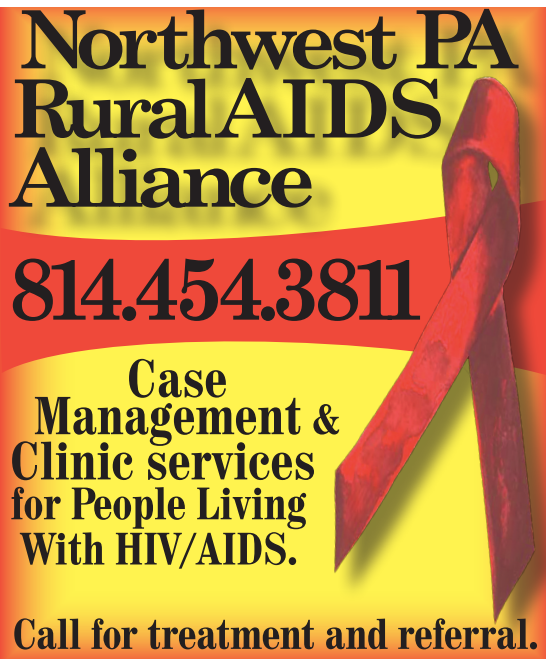
We'll be keeping up our website (www.southerntiertrans.org) for the foreseeable future and will continue posting links of interest to the transgender community on this page. We are grateful to all those who have shown and given us material and moral support in the past.

SSTN website: www.southerntiertrans.org

Petition on Banning Conversion Therapy to Governor Wolf's Offices

On March 24, representatives from the Pennsylvania Equality Project (PEP) will deliver copies of signed petitions that call on the Pennsylvania Legislature to ban the practice of conversion or "ex-gay" therapy. David Moore, President and Founder of PEP, will be delivering over 7,000 signatures to the Governor's representatives to ban what he refers to as a "barbaric practice." The petition is in support of Pennsylvania House Bill 935 and Senate Bill 45 which were introduced in 2015. In its May 2000 report, the American Psychiatric Association opposed the practice saying it is, "based upon the assumption that homosexuality per se is a mental disorder or based upon the a priori assumption that a patient should change his/her sexual homosexual orientation."

Petitions will be delivered to: 100 State Street, Suite 205, Erie, PA and 301 5th Avenue, Piatt Place, Room 240, Pittsburgh, PA



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Community News

Playwright Terrence McNally in Buffalo Apr 1-2

Terrence McNally, four-time Tony Award-winning playwright, will visit Buffalo on April 1 and 2, 2016 as a guest of Buffalo United Artists (BUA), the Dramatists Guild Fund, Inc., the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site, and Just Buffalo Literary Center. During his stay, the celebrated author will participate in two events to support theater in Western New York: a fundraising reading for BUA at the Theodore Roosevelt Site on Friday, April 1 at 6 p.m.; and a free master class supported by the Dramatists Guild Fund at Buffalo State College on April 2 at 11 a.m.



McNally is the author of such critically acclaimed plays as *Love! Valour! Compassion!*; *Master Class*; *Lips Together Teeth Apart*; *The Ritz*; *Some Men*; *The Lisbon Traviata*; and *Mothers and Sons*, as well as books for the musicals *Ragtime*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *The Full Monty*, *A Man of No Importance*, and *The Visit*. He has written the librettos for two operas: *Dead Man Walking* and *Great Scott*. He is recipient of the Dramatists Guild Lifetime Achievement Award. He was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame in 1996 and received two Guggenheim Fellowships, a Rockefeller Grant, three Hull-Warriner Awards for Best Play, three Lucille Lortel Awards, and a citation from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. and an Emmy Award for *Andre's Mother*.

Info: Visit www.buffalobua.org Facebook event page: Terrence McNally in Buffalo

**DEADLINE for next issue is
APRIL 15**



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Calendar

Detailed calendar listings in our online calendar
www.eriegaynews.com

Live & Let Live is an LGBTQA-friendly AA meeting that meets every Sunday, at 7PM, at Community United Church, 1011 West 38th Street, Erie, PA . For more information, visit www.aaeriepa.org.

Mar 24 (Thu) - Candidate Forum (Mental Health Association of Northwestern Pennsylvania, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) “Presented by *Erie Gay News* and MHA. Light refreshments will be provided and admission is free! This will be a moderated forum, and there will also be time for questions from the audience.” Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. Venue (814) 452-4462 ext 101. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com. venue web site www.mhanp.org/.

Mar 24-25 (Thu-Fri) - “Outlaws” Penn State Behrend Gender Conference (Reed Building, Penn State Behrend, Erie PA) “The Ninth Annual Gender

conference contains several panels on LGBTQ topics, most particularly a community roundtable on “Gender Outlaws and Interlopers” on Friday afternoon. Dr. The keynote speech by tattoo historian Margot Mifflin on Thursday, March 24th (7-30-8:30pm), also will address, among other topics, the symbolic use of tattooing as empowerment by feminist and LGBTQ subcultures.” Sarah Whitney Penn State Behrend 814-898-6325 sew17@psu.edu psbehrend.psu.edu

Mar 25 (Fri)- Ladyfest Erie at Penn State Behrend (McGarvey Commons, Reed Union Bldg, Penn State Behrend, Erie PA). 3-8PM. Ladyfest Erie at Penn State Behrend will once again coincide with the school’s annual Gender Conference. Free and open to the public. www.facebook.com/LadyfestErie/

Mar 25 (Fri) - Melissa Ferrick w/ Mo Kenney At The 9th Ward, Buffalo NY www.babevillebuffalo.com

Mar 26 (Sat) - LBT Women - Erie Zoo visit and Zoo Animal Art Show (Erie Zoo, 423 W 38th St, Erie, PA) 10 AM - 4 PM. “View and purchase works of art made by local Erie Zoo animals. Meet at zoo at 9:45.” Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

Mar 26 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets (Mental Health Assoc. of NW PA, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) 2 - 5 PM. Safe space for all who fit somewhere in the gender spectrum, or who are questioning. Contact: Caitlyn (814) 823-1969. caitlynxpress@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie.

Mar 26 (Sat) - Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Support Group meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Highway, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Support Group provides support and encouragement for both

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Calendar

MTF and FTM transgender individuals. (440) 265-8191. shub1@suite224.net. eriesisters.ning.com/.

Mar 26 (Sat) - Easter Egg Hunt with a Twist (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) BYOB, membership required, purchase from bartender. (724) 602-8447. JoshuaSean2009@aol.com www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

Apr 1 (Fri) - G2H2/ERIE (Location TBA, Erie, PA) 6 PM - 8 PM.

Mar 28-Apr 25 - Buffalo United Artists New Play Series Staged readings of new plays by Buffalo area playwrights Mondays 7:00 pm | Free Admission" www.buffalobua.org

Mar 31 - International Transgender Day of Visibility join us in Perry Square on March 31 at 6:30 PM. This year's theme of #MoreThanVisibility

Apr 1 (Fri) - Buffalo United Artists presents An Evening with Terrence McNally (Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site, 641 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY) Fundraising event for BUA, details www.buffalobua.org

Apr 2 (Sat) - Master Class with Terrence McNally (Buffalo State College Donald Savage Theater and Communicatio, 1300 Elmwood Ave, Buffalo, NY) No RSVP required. Details (716) 886-9239. FB: Terrance McNally in Buffalo

Apr 2 (Sat) - Dreams of Hope: "Absolute Disco" (PPG Wintergarden, 1 Ppg Place, Pittsburgh, PA) Fundraiser and auction to benefit Dreams of Hope. www.dreamsofhope.org.

Apr 2 (Sat) - Drag Show (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) BYOB, membership required, purchase from bartender. (724) 602-8447. JoshuaSean2009@aol.com www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

Apr 3 (Sun) - TransFamily Youth meets (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 2 -5 PM. "We provide a safe space for all youth who fit somewhere in the gender spectrum, or who are questioning, to share their experiences and to obtain support from others who have had similar experiences. We welcome anyone 21 and younger who identifies as gender-variant." Contact: Char Newport. cmn0626@

ACLU-PA Northwest Chapter 2016 Annual Meeting



the STATE
of Our Union

*Keynote speaker: Andy Hoover,
ACLU PA Legislative Director*

*"Evolving Standard of Decency: Changing
the Conversation on Justice in Pennsylvania"*

Sunday, May 1, 2016, 4-6 PM

La Bella's, 802 W 18th St, Erie, PA 16502

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

To RSVP, text or call 814-881-3788 with your name and phone number.

Calendar

gmail.com. www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie.

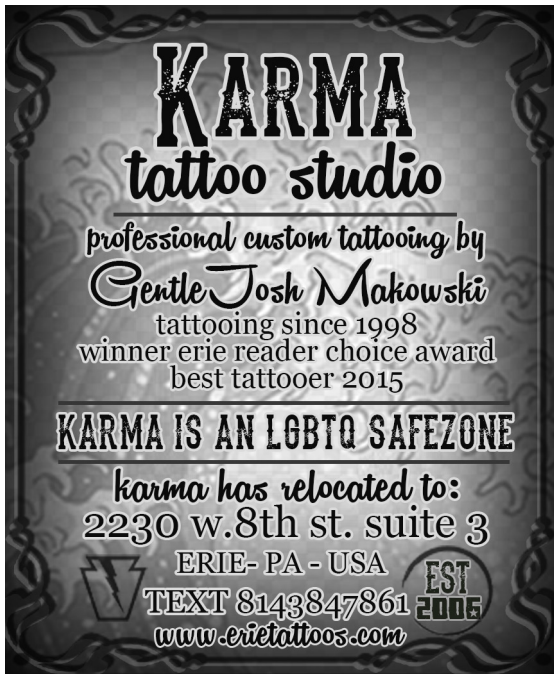
Apr 3 (Sun) - PFLAG Butler meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA) 5- 8PM. "Transgender the Understanding." www.pflagbutler.com/.

Apr 6 (Wed) - The Table: Worship (The Table, 3176 W. 41st Street, Erie, PA) 7 PM. pastrixjodi@gmail.com. Browse to www.thetableerie.com/.

Apr 7 - 10 (Thu - Sun) - Drenched Fur 12 (Bel-Aire Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 W 8th St, Erie, PA) (814) 446-2327. www.drenchedfur.com

Apr 8 - 10 (Fri - Sun) - 2016 Pennsylvania Youth Action Conference: The Future of Community Safety and LGBTQ Pennsylvania (The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA) (717) 743-1035. jgoodman@payoutcongress.org. payoutcongress.org/.

Apr 9 (Sat) - Erie LGBT Rainbow Alliance meets (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 1 - 3 PM. A support group that provides a safe, confidential space for LGBT community members to come together and share stories, struggles and resources



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A la carte events at Drenched Fur 12 Weekend

The Drenched Fur weekend package is sold out, but there are several individual events available. For information about these events visit www.drenchedfur.com Contact: Gary Snyder. (814) 446-2327. info@drenchedfur.com.

Note: Drenched Fur events are for adult males 21 and older.

Apr 7 (Thu) - Bear Karaoke (Bel-Aire Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. In Maxi's Cafe.

Apr 8 (Fri) - Foodies Fun Time Tour or Bears Brews Cruise (Bel-Aire Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 11 AM - 4 PM. \$40 per person in advance.

Apr 8 (Fri) - Locker Room Theme Dance (Bel-Aire Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. With DJ Tony Ruiz in the ballroom. \$5 per person.

Apr 9 (Sat) - Furry Feud Game Show (Bel-Aire Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 7:30 PM. \$5 per person.

Apr 9 (Sat) - Drenched Fur Private Water Park Event (Splash Lagoon Indoor Water Park, 8091 Peach Street, Erie, PA) 10 PM - 2 AM. Exclusive after-hours private event. \$40.

Apr 10 (Sun) - Bear Vendor Mall (Bel-Aire Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 9 AM - 11 AM. Open to locals (Free).



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Calendar

about the LGBT experience especially those involving the medical and legal system. The group is co-facilitated by Chelsea Nicole and Dale Allgeier, LCSW. (814) 455-4009. ErieLGBTRainbowAlliance@gmail.com.

Apr 9 (Sat) - TransFamily of Meadville meets (Counseling Center, 898 Park Ave., 2nd fl. Meadville, PA) 2 - 5 PM. "We provide a safe space for all who fit somewhere in the gender spectrum, or who are questioning, to share their experiences and to obtain support from others who have had similar experiences. We welcome anyone who identifies as gender-variant, their family, friends, and allies of the community. We also support the community through advocacy efforts and education to the larger cisgender community." Contact: Richelle Kohler. richellekohler@hotmail.com. www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie.

Apr 9 (Sat) - Spring Party (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) BYOB, membership required, purchase from bartender. (724) 602-8447. JoshuaSean2009@aol.com www.facebook.com/MandJslounge.

Apr 10 (Sun) - LBT Women meets (Brew Ha Ha at the

Colony, 2612 W 8th St, Erie, PA) Meets 2nd Sunday of the month at noon at Brew Ha Ha. Contact: Kim (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

Apr 10 (Sun) - Aging With Pride (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 4 PM - 6 PM. Group offering a safe, comfortable space for the older LGBT individual to seek support, friendship, social opportunities and discussion of issues of importance such as medical/health needs, housing, legal/ financial concerns, discrimination, disabilities and social isolation. Meets second Saturday of the month at Lake Erie Counseling. (814) 455-4009. daleallgeier@outlook.com. www.lakeeriecounseling.com/

Apr 11 (Mon) - David Sedaris at the Warner Theatre 811 State St., Erie PA, 7:30PM. (814) 453-7117 eriewarnertheatre.com

Apr 12 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6:30 PM. Support groups are open to public, light refreshments available. Contact: Marguerite youngstown-

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Calendar

pflag@aol.com. www.youngstownpflag.org/.

Apr 13 (Wed) - The Table: Theology on Tap (Andy's Pub, 3866 Peach St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. pastrixjodi@gmail.com. Browse to www.thetableerie.com/.

Apr 14 (Thu) - LBT Women go to Erie Seawolves Opener (Erie Seawolves, 110 E 10th St, Erie, PA 16501) 6:05 PM. Contact: Kim Conti. Phone: (814) 314-9512. Venue Phone: (814) 456-1300. Email: EricBeans@aol.com. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/LBT-WOMENOFERIE>. Browse to venue web site <http://www.minorleaguebaseball.com/index.jsp?sid=t106>.

Apr 15 (Fri) - Deadline for Erie Gay News May 2016 print edition (Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA) Please have all articles, ads, and submissions in by this date. This issue will be released the evening of Tuesday, April 26. Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

Apr 16 (Sat) - Camp Davis Opens for Seasonal (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) 9 AM. 5 PM www.campdaviscampground.com.

Apr 16 (Sat) - LBT Women go to "Bonnie and Clyde the Musical" (Penn State Behrend, 5103 Station Rd, Erie, PA) 7:30 PM. Cost \$7, must call (814) 898-6242

to reserve seats. Contact: Kim Conti. Phone: (814) 314-9512. EricBeans@aol.com. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

Apr 16 (Sat) - Boxers Night (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) (www.facebook.com/Mand-JsLounge).

Apr 17 (Sun) - Michelle Michaels presents FACE Drag Show! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. "Don't miss a fun-filled night of great entertainment with all of your favorite drag queens, new drag queens and special guests the third Sunday of the month" www.facebook.com/TheZoneDanceClub.

Apr 18 (Mon) - Camp Davis Opens to the public (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) www.campdaviscampground.com.

Apr 19 (Tue) - PFLAG Meadville meets (Stone United Methodist Church, 956 S Main St, Meadville, PA) 7 PM. Contact: Randy Herbert-Weed. (814) 724-6736. meadvillepflag@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/groups/PFLAGMeadville/.

Apr 20 (Wed) - Bears Do Dinner (Nunzi's Place, 2330 E 38th St, Erie, PA 16510) 6:30 PM. Join the Bears for a casual night of food and fun! Dinner is on your own. Contact: Gary Snyder. (814) 446-2327. info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com.

Apr 20 (Wed) - The Table: Contemplation 101 (The Table, 3176 W. 41st Street, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Exploring the ancient practice of lectio divina. pastrixjodi@gmail.com. Browse to www.thetableerie.com/.

Apr 22 (Fri) - Whispering Lake Grove: Earth Day Celebration (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 5 PM. "Honoring the Earth Mother and the many blessings she presents to us on Earth Day, Friday...outdoors, so remember to dress accordingly. We will specifically be honoring the many incarnations of the Earth Mother, both as Goddess of the Land and Goddess of Sovereignty." Contact: Rev. Christopher Temple. (814) 720-1560. grollwynn72@hotmail.com. www.whisperinglakegrove.org.

Apr 22 - (Fri) Panic! at the Disco at Penn State Behrend Public tickets \$35/\$40 door. psbehrend.psu.edu

Apr 23 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets (Mental Health Assoc. of NW PA, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) 2 - 5 PM. Safe space for all who fit somewhere in the gender spectrum, or who are questioning. Contact: Caitlyn (814) 823-1969. caitlynxpress@gmail.com.

Read EGN Print Version ONLINE

Just go to our website and click on the image of the print edition!



Calendar

com. www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie.

Apr 23 (Sat) - Long Johns & Flannel (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (www.campdavisground.com).

Apr 23 (Sat) - Pride Prom Buffalo 2016 (Hamlin House Restaurant 432 Franklin St, Buffalo, NY) 4-11PM Tickets include buffet style dinner and 4 hours of open bar. (716) 885-8084 hamlinhouse432@hotmail.com FB: Pride Prom Buffalo 2016

Apr 23 (Sat) - Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Support Group meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Support Group provides support and encouragement for both MTF and FTM transgender individuals. (440) 265-8191. shub1@suite224.net. eriesters.ning.com/.

Apr 23 (Sat) - T-Shirt Marker Party (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

Apr 24 (Sun) - The Buffalo Brunch (Salvatore's Italian Gardens, 6461 Transit Road, Depew NY). Noon-3pm. "The Buffalo Brunch honors individuals, groups,

organizations, and businesses that help celebrate and embrace the LGBT community within the greater Western New York community." Tickets cost \$50 and can be obtained by visiting www.buffalobrunch.org. Organized by embraceWNY www.embracewny.org

Apr 26 (Tue) - Pennsylvania Primary Election 7 AM - 8 PM. Please remember to vote!

Apr 26 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel, 55 West Bay Road, Erie, PA) 7 PM. All ages welcome! Contact: Mike (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

Apr 27 (Wed) - The Table: Non-traditional Theology (Location TBD, Erie, PA) Exploring theology and spiritual themes in a secular film. pastrixjodi@gmail.com. www.thetableerie.com/.

Apr 28 (Thu) - Allison Miller's Boom Tic Boom (Mercyhurst University, Mercyhurst Institute for Arts and Culture: Walker Recital Hall 501 E 38th St Erie, PA) allisonmiller.com

Apr 30 (Sat) - Beer Pong with a Twist (M & J's



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Calendar

Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

May 1 (Sun) - Erie LGBTQIA Team for March for Babies (Penn State Behrend - Junker Center, 4701 College Drv, Erie, PA) Registration starts at 11am at the Junker Center with the march starting at 1pm. The Erie LGBTQIA team, will consist of members from NWPAA Pride Alliance, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, LBT Women of Erie, Erie Brothers and Sisters, and TransFamily of Erie. Everyone is encouraged to wear either their organization's shirts or rainbow colors. If you are unable to walk, donations will be accepted. If you are unable to donate, please considering walking. Contact: Alex Sphon. Phone: (814) 314-9075. Email: asphon@nwpa-pride.org.

May 1 - ACLU "Evolving Standard of Decency: Changing the Conversation on Justice in Pennsylvania" (La Bella's Restaurant, 802 W. 18th St., Erie PA) "This year's Northwest Chapter Annual Meeting will feature Andy Hoover, ACLU-PA Legislative Director ... free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided." hbginfo@aclupa.org 717-238-2258 www.aclupa.org/chapters/northwestpa/

May 1 (Sun) - LBT Women meets (Brew Ha Ha at the Colony, 2612 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 12 PM. Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

May 1 (Sun) - TransFamily Youth meets (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA 16502) 2 PM - 5 PM. "We provide a safe space for all youth who fit somewhere in the gender spectrum... We welcome anyone 21 and younger who identifies as gender-variant." Contact: Char Newport. www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie.

May 1 (Sun) - PFLAG Butler meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA) 5 PM - 8 PM. www.pflagbutler.com/.

May 1 (Sun) - Whispering Lake Grove Beltaine (Unitarian-Universalist Cong. of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) "Celebration honoring the fertility of the season." Doors open 5PM, ritual 6PM, potluck after. Rev. Christopher Temple. www.whisperinglakegrove.org.

May 2 (Mon) - Art for Change -The Auction to Benefit PERSAD Center (Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown, 600 Commonwealth Pl, Pittsburgh, PA) G www.persadcenter.org/.

May 7 - Women on Fire - (1891 Fredonia Opera

House, Fredonia NY) "Twelve emotionally charged monologues explore the breadth of women's issues with humor and wisdom." fredopera.org

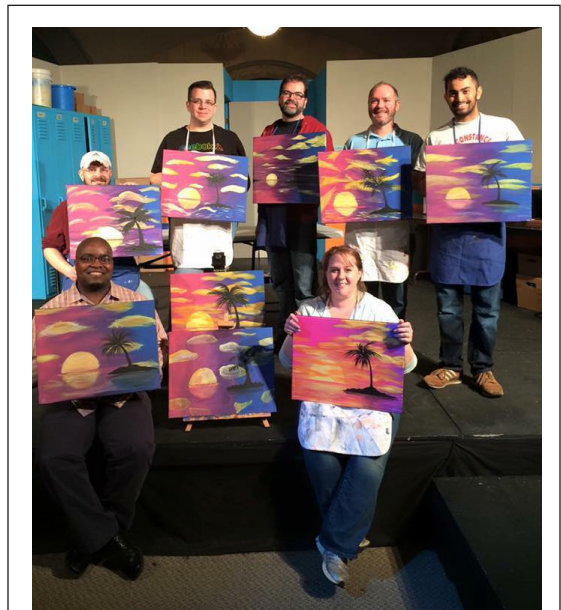
May 13 (Fri) - Cyndi Lauper in Pittsburgh Carnegie Music Hall Homestead 510 E. Tenth Ave. Pittsburgh , PA cyndilauper.com

May 17 (Sun)- Cyndi Lauper in Cleveland Hard Rock Live cyndilauper.com

May 20 - 22 - Imperial Court of Buffalo Coronation XXVI - (Various venues, Buffalo NY). 5/20 "Out of Town Show" 5/21 "The Grand Ball" 5/22 - Victory Brunch Details: www.imperialcourtofbuffalo.com/

Jun 4 - Erie Pride Picnic (Rotary Pavilion, Presque Isle State Park, Erie PA) 1-6PM <http://www.nwpa-pride.org/>

Jul 16 - Youngstown Pride E Federal Street Youngstown, OH Noon-9PM prideyoungstown.org FB: "2016 Pride Youngstown Festival"



Painting with Pride

On March 9th NW PA Pride Alliance partnered with Dramashop for their first-ever Painting with Pride fundraiser. They are looking forward to another Painting With Pride event this fall.

Intersections of Equality Symposium

from GEAE

We are pleased to invite you to Greater Erie Alliance for Equality's Second Biennial "Intersections of Equality" Symposium co-sponsored by Penn State Behrend.

The event will take place Saturday, April 30th, 2016 from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM at Reed Student Union Building (on the campus of Penn State Behrend)

This symposium will explore a number of the intersections of equality in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, with respect to the movement for full legal and social equality in the United States, Pennsylvania, and the Greater Erie Area.

Session 1: "Viewing LGBQ & T/GA Youth through a Trauma-Informed Lens" by Mr. Will Koehler, LCSW and Dr. Hilary Copp, LSW

Mr. Will Koehler is a Licensed Professional Social Worker in the state of Pennsylvania and an instructor of Social Work at Edinboro University. His areas of expertise are working with children exposed to violence and with LGBT adolescents and adults. Current areas

of research are the role of bystanders in anti-LGBT bullying and LGBT community needs assessment. Will Koehler also serves as President of the Board of Directors for the Greater Erie Alliance for Equality.

Dr. Hilary Copp has been a member of the Edinboro University social work faculty since 2008. She is currently the director of the undergraduate program and teaches practice, research, and field in both the Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Social Work programs. Dr. Copp's research interests center primarily on LGBTQ individuals and issues, with a specific focus on school climate for LGBTQ students at both the secondary and collegiate levels. Her clinical practice experience includes work with members of the LGBQ population, outpatient mental health, older adults, and Holocaust survivors. Dr. Copp is a co-founder and facilitator of TransFamily of Erie, a monthly support group for transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals and their loved ones.

Keynote (Session 2): "Status of Transgender Health Care and Rights in PA" by Pennsylvania Physician General, Dr. Rachel Levine, M.D.

Dr. Rachel Levine is currently Physician General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the Penn State College of Medicine. Her previous posts included: Vice-Chair for Clinical Affairs for the Department of Pediatrics and Chief of the Division of Adolescent Medicine and Eating Disorders at the Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital-Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. She is the first openly transgender individual to be appointed to this position.

Session 3: "Gender Roles: Conformity and Rebellion" by Dr. T. Andrew Caswell

Dr. T. Andrew Caswell received his Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Bethany College and his Master of Arts in Psychology from Marshall University. He graduated from the University of South Florida with a PhD in Social Psychology and has been an Assistant Professor in the Psychology and Counseling Department at Gannon University since August 2013. His primary research interests are in sexual prejudice and emotion and the social construction of manhood.

Session 4: "Art Power! Access, Visibility, Community" a panel presentation hosted by Dr. Darren Lee Miller

Darren Lee Miller is an artist, professor, gallery



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Intersections for Equality

(Continued from previous page)

director, and curator at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania. The themes to which Miller returns – power, identity, control – inform both his curatorial work and his art work. His work has been recognized through residencies at Blue Mountain Center, the Vermont Studio Center, the University of Puerto Rico, and in regional and national exhibitions. Miller holds a BFA from the New York State College of Ceramics at Alfred University, and an MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Panelists include: Steve Prince, Mary Tremonte, Jonathan Reyes, and Cavanaugh Quick.

Early registration is now open online at GEAE's web site, <http://www.GreterErieAlliance.com>.

Because we are limited to 200 seats, Early Registration (which includes continental breakfast and box lunch) is a donation of \$20 until April 16th, and increases to a donation of \$25 until all seats are full.

Continuing Education Credit is available through Penn State for an additional \$35 at the door.

Student scholarships are available. To RSVP as a student, please contact us at: geaeinfo@gmail.com

The symposium will also host an information fair for area organizations who work at the intersections of sexuality, gender, race, education, and/or social services. If you have an organization that is LGBT friendly and you would like to have a table, please contact us at: geaeinfo@gmail.com

As a final note, it has been GEAE's mission since 2011 to plan and host substantive educational opportunities that bring together the LGBT community and our straight allies. This symposium is a banner event for the greater Erie area, and we hope you can join us to take advantage of the expertise of our presenters and to network with attendees and speakers alike.

If you have any questions, please reach us at geaeinfo@gmail.com or call 866-229-1974

Stay updated!
Subscribe to the Erie GLBT List
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LGBT Roundtable meets



Members of the LGBT Roundtable met March 10. A major goal of the Roundtable is to unite the various organizations serving different members of our LGBT community in order to provide a platform for communication and collaboration. The Roundtable will be meeting later this year.

Candidates for US Senate, US Congress PA-3 and PA-5, PA State Senate and PA State House were asked about their positions on GLBT issues. Their responses appear on the next few pages.

US Senate

Not Responding: Pat Toomey (R-Incumbent)

Anti-Discrimination

John Fetterman (D)

Yes. It blows my mind how these protections aren't already law and that there is any argument against them. We need enumeration that specifically spells out gender identity and sexual orientation. It's a disgrace that we don't have laws against LGBT discrimination in housing, the workplace and public accommodation. It's the next great struggle for LGBT rights after marriage equality.

Kathleen McGinty (D)

I support the Equality Act and will be a vocal advocate of the legislation if elected to Senate. I've seen the issues confronting the LGBT community first-hand with my brother who is gay. These fundamental issues of equality are not theoretical to me, they are personal, and I believe that discrimination in any form is unacceptable and harmful to the fabric of our country. As Governor Wolf's Chief of Staff, I was proud to join with him to aggressively call on Pennsylvania's legislature to pass legislation to ensure that none of our citizens are ever discriminated against. In the Senate, I fill fight to pass those protections against discrimination at the federal level.

Joe Sestak (D)

I fully support the passage of the Equality Act, and I will fight to ensure that all LGBT Americans are free from discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. Although the Supreme Court's decision to affirm the right of all people to marry whomever they love was an important step forward in the advancement of LGBT rights, a same-sex couple in Pennsylvania can still be fired and evicted once their employers and landlords learn of the wedding. We need tireless warriors in the Senate who will fight for the rights for all Americans to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity – and I am proud to say I will be that warrior.

These were the questions for all candidates:

Anti-Discrimination

Do you support the passage of legislation such as the Equality Act or the PA Fairness Act, which would protect LGBT individuals from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation? Please explain.

“Religious Freedom”

Do you support legislation such as Indiana's Senate Bill 101 that would allow individuals, government officials or government agencies to deny providing goods and services to LGBT individuals because of religious beliefs. Please explain.

Gender Identity/Expression

Do you support legislation such as South Dakota's House Bill 1008 that would prohibit individuals from using the restroom and etc facilities which match their gender identity? Please explain.

Anti-Bullying

Do you support the PASS Act, which would amend the Public School Code of 1949 to include protecting LGBT individuals from bullying in public schools? Please explain.

Other

What would you like to let the Erie area LGBT community to know?

Compiled by Michael Mabler

All candidates in a race are asked the same questions. Responses are entered as received, without any changes, including correction for typographical errors. Pertinent information that does not come directly from the candidate will use reliable and verifiable sources.

This guide also appears on www.eriegaynews.com

Joseph Vodvarka (D)

Any American who wants to work should be able to do so without worrying about being discriminated against.

If they are good workers they should be protected.

“Religious Freedom”

John Fetterman (D)

No. All LGBT Americans need to be treated as equal citizens.

Kathleen McGinty (D)

I absolutely oppose legislation such as the bill proposed in Indiana. These laws are unacceptable attempts to legalize discrimination. As a country, we should be passing laws that protect Americans and improve our economy – not laws that legalize discrimination and drive businesses away.

Joe Sestak (D)

The freedom of religion is not the freedom to discriminate against those with whom we disagree. One of the most fundamental freedoms upon which our nation is based is the freedom to worship free from persecution, but our LGBT brothers and sisters also have the unalienable right to live free from persecution. I oppose legislation such as Indiana’s Senate Bill 101 because it sets a dangerous precedent of denying the basic dignity of the LGBT community, potentially opening the door to even more onerous laws denying them their fundamental rights.

Gender Identity/Expression

John Fetterman (D)

Absolutely not. A person should be able to use facilities that match their gender identity, just like anyone else can.

Kathleen McGinty (D)

I absolutely oppose South Dakota’s proposed legislation. It is the duty of government to protect the most vulnerable – not target young people for discrimination. Treating transgender students and all Americans

equally comes at no cost to anyone else. As Senator, I will be a force against these discriminatory laws.

Joe Sestak (D)

I was pleased to see that South Dakota’s Republican governor struck down this discriminatory proposal, because it showed that affirming the dignity of the transgender community is neither a conservative or liberal issue – it is a human issue. A person’s gender identity and expression is the business of that person and no one else’s, and any attempt from lawmakers to restrict their ability to live in accordance with their gender identity should be rejected outright. The national conversation surrounding a trans person’s ability just to use a public restroom, which has invoked baseless comparisons between transgender people and sex offenders, has been shameful and I will work as a Senator to promote acceptance and equality for my transgender constituents

Anti-Bullying

John Fetterman (D)

I think every school in the country - whether it be public, private, or high education - should be required to adopt codes of conduct specifically banning bullying, harassment and discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. It is shameful that most states in our country don’t have non-discrimination laws for LGBT students, so we really need to do our best at the federal level to establish a precedent. The fact that a handful of states don’t let schools even discuss LGBT and forbid enumeration is ludicrous. We also need to make sure schools are properly funded so they can have the resources and accountability measures necessary to enforce anti-bullying policies and have education programs around these issues.

Kathleen McGinty (D)

I support the PASS Act and in the Senate I would support federal legislation like the Student Non-Discrimination Act and the Safe Schools Improvement Act. Schools should be a place for all of our children to learn and grow, not to be subject to harassment and violence.

Joe Sestak (D)

Nearly 90 percent of all LGBT youth report being harassed at school for their sexual orientation or gender identity, with more than 60 percent reporting that their school did nothing when they learned of this harassment. Furthermore, LGBT youth are twice as likely to drop out of high school and not pursue a college degree as their heterosexual peers, and an astonishingly high number of LGBT youth escape hostile environments at school and at home by becoming homeless. Passing the PASS Act to better serve the LGBT children in our schools is not the last step we must take to fix these problems, but it is strong first step in the right direction and I strongly support its passage.

Other

John Fetterman (D)

I was the first Mayor in Pennsylvania to sign on to the “Mayors for the Freedom to Marry” letter. In 2013, when same-sex marriage was still illegal in Pennsylvania, I did what no other mayor in the state would: defied the governor and officiated marriages for same-sex couples. I thought it was a disgrace that we’d made discrimination a part of our state constitution, so when the Montgomery County Clerk started issuing marriage licenses, I was happy to open my home to couples looking to be officially married.

Kathleen McGinty (D)

I firmly believe that diversity is one of our country’s greatest strengths. That’s why as Governor Wolf’s Chief of Staff and advisor, I was proud to help him select one of the most diverse Cabinets in our Commonwealth’s history – including selecting Dr. Rachel Levine as Pennsylvania’s physician general, making her the highest-ranking transgender person in state government history. Pennsylvania is a better place for having diverse leadership that reflects the people of this state.

I have seen the impact of discrimination on those closest to me in my life. These issues are personal to me. I’ll be a dedicated fighter against discrimination at all levels – whether it’s because of race, gender, sexual orientation or gender identity. As Senator, I’ll fight for legislation that ensures that all Americans are treated and protected equally under the law and I’ll be a force

against attempts to undermine the progress we’ve made as a state and as a nation.

Joe Sestak (D)

The Supreme Court’s decision to extend marriage rights to LGBT Americans was another step in a long and broad civil rights struggle demonstrating that our nation can be made more perfect – that every citizen deserves dignity, respect, and equality under the law.

All Americans can now marry the one they love and receive all the rights and responsibilities that come with marriage. And yet, in many states, their employers may still legally fire them once they hear about the wedding.

Marriage equality was an important achievement, but with no federal laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in employment, housing, or public accommodations, we cannot yet declare victory.

Indeed, we have not done enough.

We have not done enough when LGBT Americans are still hesitant to put pictures of their partners and spouses at the work place because 10 to 28 percent of LGBT employees stated that they have been denied promotion or fired simply because of their sexual orientation.

Polling shows that a majority of Americans in every single congressional district would support a law to protect against employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

It is no longer enough for leaders to simply support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) – we need it to be re-introduced over and over again until the holdouts in Congress are embarrassed into finally making law what 7 out of 10 Americans already know is right.

We also have not done enough when LGBT renters and prospective home buyers are more likely to be denied housing, even after offering to pay the full asking price in cash, and 48 percent of LGBT couples face discrimination when applying for senior housing.

To remedy this, the Fair Housing Act must be amended to specifically include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected categories in housing transactions.

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Similarly, we have not done nearly enough when a hotel can refuse a room to an LGBT couple, turning travelers away because they happen to be gay.

When confronted about this subject, one U.S. Senator stated that he had not “given any thought to the issue” before hurrying into an elevator. That same Senator also said that violent crimes against LGBT Americans are not hate crimes, and would ban adoptions by LGBT couples.

Laws protecting LGBT Americans from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations are long overdue, and we need trusted advocates – actually, warriors – in the Senate to move this fight forward.

In my 31-year career in the United States Navy, I served alongside many LGBT Americans who were all committed to defending our nation. I had the fortune to lead and serve under some of these fine men and women who simply wanted to get the job done. They would have died for me, and I for them.

I was disappointed when “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) was passed. I was taken aback when an official Navy spokesman justified that policy by saying that “homosexuals are notoriously promiscuous,” and that if allowed to serve openly, heterosexuals showering with gay men would have an “uncomfortable feeling of someone watching.”

At the time, I was serving as a captain, and a two-star admiral asked me what I thought about DADT. It was certain to be declared unconstitutional, I told him, convinced that the Supreme Court would throw it out in a couple months.

Unfortunately, that did not happen. So when I got to Congress, I was proud to co-sponsor legislation to end DADT and prohibit the military from discriminating based on sexual orientation.

I have served my country as a naval leader and legislator. I take great pride in America’s fine tradition

and ability to perfect itself – with committed citizens in every generation leading the way to right wrongs and pursue equality for all.

LGBT rights remain one of those key social issues of our time. Social progress is gradual, but the efforts through which we achieve it must be relentless.

Together, we can continue to build on the great progress that we have already made, and help our nation achieve a higher ground for all citizens, as our founders inspired us to do some two centuries ago, declaring that “We, the People” must always strive toward a more perfect union.

Joseph Vodvarka (D)

I’d like to see us work for a cure for AIDS and cancer. Look at how much we’ve spent on these wars, what if we spent it on a cure for AIDS and cancer? Also, the only foreign aid that the US gives out should be for Israel.

US Congress PA -3

Not Responding: Mike Kelly(R-Incumbent)

Editors’ Note: This is from Human Rights Campaign’s article “19 Members of Congress Inducted into HRC’s Hall of Shame” (October 2014):

“Mike Kelly (R- PA)— At first glance, Kelly appears to be a more moderate, reasonable kind of guy. Yet in the 113th Congress, in addition to cosponsoring anti-LGBT bills, he took the initiative to introduce one of the most hurtful and harmful anti-LGBT bills yet—the Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act. This bill would allow adoption and foster care providers to use their personal religious beliefs as a reason to discriminate against LGBT people seeking to provide a loving home to a child in need.”

US Congress PA -5

Not Responding: Kerith Strano Taylor (D), Glenn Thompson (R-Incumbent)



PA State Senate 49

Not Responding: Sean Wiley (D-Incumbent)

Anti-Discrimination

Dan Laughlin (R)

Right now, it is irrational and runs against every concept of fairness and equity, that gay individuals can be fired from their jobs, denied employment, turned away from housing and public accommodations. While I do not believe that every heterosexual institution or custom demands a corresponding gay version, every individual is entitled to equality of opportunity and treatment under the law. As such, I would join with other mainstream Republicans in the general assembly in support of The Pennsylvania Fairness Act.

“Religious Freedom”

Dan Laughlin (R)

I do not.

Gender Identity/Expression

Dan Laughlin (R)

I do not.

Anti-Bullying

Dan Laughlin (R)

Current law and regulation already forbid bullying. To carve out subcategories invites the erosion of equality before the law for which the LGBT community is now fighting. I would not support an act, such as the PASS Act, that would result in this enforced inequality. Bullying is bullying. Assault is assault. Crime is crime.

Other

Dan Laughlin (R)

The LGBT community has, traditionally, been one that has included entrepreneurs, artists, business leaders, and professionals with whom my message of economic growth, low taxes, and responsible government should resonate. Where we differ on some of the finer points of social policy, I think that the ultimate

role of state government is to provide services to all citizens, while fostering a climate of economic progress and fiscal restraint that benefits people of all kinds, all backgrounds, and all aspirations.

PA State House 1

Not Responding: William Crotty (R)

Anti-Discrimination

Patrick Harkins (D-Incumbent)

I have always been a strong supporter of H.B. 300 since it was introduced and I will continue to support it and will vote in favor of it when it comes up for passage.

“Religious Freedom”

Patrick Harkins (D-Incumbent)

No, I believe all people should be treated fairly and with respect regardless of their religious beliefs.

Gender Identity/Expression

Patrick Harkins (D-Incumbent)

I am not familiar with the South Dakota's H.B. 1008. I really don't see Pennsylvania dealing with any legislation like that in the foreseeable future.

Anti-Bullying

Patrick Harkins (D-Incumbent)

Yes, bullying of any kind cannot be tolerated whether it is in school, on the internet or in society. I have introduced legislation and held hearings across the state to see what solutions we can enact to stop bullying and I believe we are making some positive progress with regards to the issue.

Other

Patrick Harkins (D-Incumbent)

I have always been an ardent supporter of LGBT. I believe in the “Golden Rule”- Treat others with respect, the way you would want others to treat you.

PA State House 2

Not Responding: Flo Fabrizio (D-Incumbent), Patrick Fuller (R), Michael Pace (R)

PA State House 3

Not Responding: Greg Lucas (R)

Anti-Discrimination

Ryan Bizzarro (D-Incumbent)

Yes, I support the PA Fairness Act. No one should be denied housing, employment, or public accommodation because of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

“Religious Freedom”

Ryan Bizzarro (D-Incumbent)

First, I do not think it is good for the cause of liberty to inscribe discrimination into the law. Second, while communities of faith certainly have the right to define their own religious and moral codes, when it comes to civil law the separation of religion and state is an important principle upon which we should rely. No elected official or government agency should ever deny services to people on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Third, while particular courts are deliberating on whether there are any cases in which a private business owner has a constitutional right to deny services to anyone on the basis of religious belief, I can't imagine being an entrepreneur and turning any business away--that just doesn't make business sense to me.

Gender Identity/Expression

Ryan Bizzarro (D-Incumbent)

Instead of discriminating, I think we support laws that help transgender people to access restroom facilities that match their gender identity. I've heard people say that somehow allowing transgender people to use the bathroom will incite predators to pretend to be transgender, who will then molest people in the

bathroom. I think that's ridiculous. If we want to stop predators from hurting people, we need to make sure restroom facilities are safe--we shouldn't categorically discriminate people groups who use them..

Anti-Bullying

Ryan Bizzarro (D-Incumbent)

Yes, I support anti-bullying acts. The fact that specific communities are targeted because of their given diversity is sad to me. Generic anti-bullying laws don't adequately address why some people are actually bullied. To that end, for the same reasons why we enumerate protections for race, sex, or creed, I think it makes perfect sense to enumerate protections for LGBT people.

Other

Ryan Bizzarro (D-Incumbent)

I have been, and will continue to be, a strong ally of the LGBT community. My record speaks for itself. To view my record on LGBT issues and other issues, please visit my legislative website at www.pahouse.com/bizzarro.

PA State House 4

Not Responding: Curt Sonney (R-Incumbent),

PA State House 6

Not Responding: Brad Roae (R-Incumbent)

Anti-Discrimination

Peter Zimmer (D)

I fully support the passage of the Fairness Act in Pennsylvania. I believe that protection from discrimination is guaranteed in the Commonwealth's Constitution and the Fairness Act will enhance the protection of all citizens. While I commend the businesses and municipalities of Pennsylvania that have expanded their non-discrimination ordinances and practices I think it

is shameful that our leading governing body is so far behind on enacting similar legislation to protect that rights of our citizens. Not only is there an ethical and moral duty to provide a more inclusive state but it is also in our economic interests to create a more attractive and appealing state for future employees, entrepreneurs and investments.

Lester Lenhart (R)

Yes I support.

“Religious Freedom”

Peter Zimmer (D)

I oppose such legislation as SB 101 of Indiana. Legislation is not to be used to restrict the access of goods and services to it's constituents. While I do support the freedoms of individuals to provide or deny services or goods without harassment, abuse or indignity I do not and will not support the restriction of services of the government due to an individual's personal preference. I believe the First Amendment and Establishment Clause prevents state sanctioned religion and expression. An individual working as an arm of the Government cannot use their religious expression and beliefs to interfere with the rights and access to services of citizens. I believe the Government's role is to expand inclusivity and protection rather than diminish it.

Lester Lenhart (R)

No I do not support.

Gender Identity/Expression

Peter Zimmer (D)

I believe that the use of a bathroom is a personal and private enterprise. I believe that the policing of bathrooms based on anatomy is rather ridiculous. However, the bill in South Dakota has more caveats than the question suggests. Bill 1008 explicitly states the measures are with regard to children in locker rooms which include a state of undress. As long as our children are safe and reasonably comfortable without discrimination, these matters are best handled by individual schools and districts with conversation between parents, educators and students.

Lester Lenhart (R)

I myself do not care< no I do not support it.

Anti-Bullying

Peter Zimmer (D)

I firmly believe our schools should be a place that allow, encourage and facilitate education in a safe and secure environment. I support legislation that expands the protection of our students from harassment and discrimination in the form of bullying or otherwise. There is no reason to leave any child out of protective and supportive legislation. I think bullying is a vile and detrimental practice and needs to be addressed and curtailed to allow for a more hospitable environment for our youth to thrive..

Lester Lenhart (R)

Yes I support.

Other

Peter Zimmer (D)

As a hopeful representative of the greater Erie Community I would like the residents to know that I will work for the preservation and expansion of their rights. I believe the role of government is to provide an umbrella of liberty to all under it's purview. As the representative of the people I will always have an open door for conversation and criticism and will work with deliberate action to facilitate the desires of my constituents. I ask for your enthusiasm and support in moving Pennsylvania in the right direction! Peter can be reached at zimmerPA6th@gmail.com

Lester Lenhart (R)

I would like to let them know. I support with the people , by the people and for the people for everyone's liberties, freedoms and justice .





Wedding Photos by: Eric Smyklo

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Online Contests

Here are new contests for this month...

Contest	Begins
Brightling Doll	March 25
<i>Finding Pluck</i> - Kindle Edition	March 29
<i>Truth, Justice, and the American Whore</i>	April 1
<i>DADDY</i> by Gerald McCullough	April 5
<i>Keb' Mo' LIVE - That Hot Pink Blues Album</i>	April 8
<i>Mind of Mine</i> from Zayn	April 12
<i>Boystown Season One</i> Audio Book	April 15
<i>Solosexual: Portrait of a Masturbator</i>	April 19
<i>MASH FAQ: Everything Left to Know About the Best Care Anywhere</i>	April 26

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
<i>Juliet Takes a Breath</i>	March 25
<i>QueerBashing</i> by Tim Morrison	March 29
<i>Sayonara remix</i> EP from Rebecca and Fiona	April 1
<i>You're Killing Me</i> DVD	April 5
<i>Carnal Anomaly</i>	April 8
<i>The Rocky Horror Picture Show FAQ: Everything Left to Know About the Campy Cult Classic</i>	April 12

Sign up for the Erie GLBT News and Events list at our web site, and you will get first notice on new contests PLUS news and upcoming events!

Intersections of Equality

2016 Symposium
focusing on LGBT Issues



SATURDAY - APRIL 30 • PENN STATE BEHREND • ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA

Presenters

Hear about bullying and other traumas faced by LGBT youth. Presented by:



Will Koehler, LCSW
Dept. of Social Work
Edinboro University



Dr. Hilary Copp, LSW
Dept. of Social Work
Edinboro University

Find out about the status of transgender health care and rights in Pennsylvania.

Presented by:

*Dr. Rachel Levine
Physician General
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania/
Professor of Pediatrics & Psychiatry
Penn State College of Medicine*



Learn about conformity and rebellion in gender roles.

Presented by:

*Dr. T. Andrew Caswell
Psychology &
Counseling Dept.
Gannon University*



Moderated by: *Darren Lee Miller, MFA
Artist, Professor &
Gallery Director
Allegheny College*

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