



Here's a snapshot of our four volunteers during the Coming Out Celebration at the Aurora Library.



**Together, let's raise our voices.
Cast your vote!**



What's Happening

October was a meaningful month as we celebrated LGBTQ+ History Month. During this time, our chapter set up a resource table at the Coming Out Celebration organized by the Aurora LGBTQ+ Advisory Board. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Aurora LGBTQ+ Advisory Board for the invitation and to our dedicated volunteers who made this event possible!

To our social media community, we hope that our posts throughout October have deepened your understanding of LGBTQ+ history. We welcome your feedback and are eager to hear about specific topics you would like us to explore further!

Our board was able to attend the PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois 2024 Conference, The Power of PFLAG, and it was amazing! We will share more about it towards the end of our newsletter.

As we look forward to November, we will be honoring our Transgender friends and loved ones as we observe Transgender Awareness Week from November 13 to 19, as well as Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20.

We hope you can join us on Sunday, November 17th from 6-8 pm for the Aurora LGBTQ+ Advisory Board's Transgender Day of Remembrance event. Please refer to page 3 for more information on the event.

Current Volunteer Opportunities:

Monthly Door Greeters for 2025

Become a volunteer and help us warmly greet attendees at our meetings, whether it's just once or several times throughout the year!

Feel free to chat with Elaine, Stephanie, or Jen at one of our meetings, or reach out via email today for more details. Your commitment involves arriving 15 minutes before we open the doors.

Hybrid is Now Available!

In October, we conducted a trial run of hybrid meetings, and we are excited to share that we are now fully equipped to offer this option to everyone! What does this entail? During our monthly support gatherings, we will provide a Zoom link for those unable to join in person. Each month, we will send out a Zoom link to anyone who expresses interest. To receive the link, please inform us by the Sunday prior to our monthly meeting (specifically, by the second Sunday of each month). We appreciate your patience as we continue to adjust to this new format.

Meeting Updates: Arrival Time - Please Read

We are revising our procedures for attendees who arrive more than 15 minutes late. For safety purposes, the church doors will remain locked, and a greeter will be available from 6:15 to 6:45 PM. If you attempt to call for entry after 6:30, please be aware that the line may be busy due to Zoom connections, and we might not be able to answer your call during our meeting. *We sincerely apologize for any past oversights.* To ensure someone is ready to let you in, please call us at 630-492-0032 by 6:25 to notify us if you are arriving after 6:45.

Thank you for your understanding.

2025 Meeting Updates

Beginning in January 2025, we will extend our meetings to two hours.

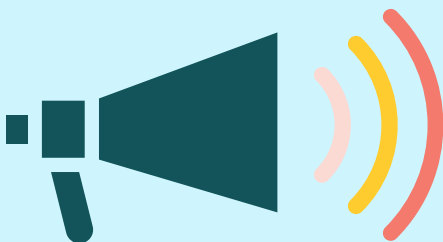
Meetings will start at 6 PM, with the first 30 minutes dedicated to sharing time. Presentations will commence at 6:30 PM to accommodate attendees who cannot arrive before that time. This will be implemented on a trial basis, as many PFLAG Chapters successfully conduct two-hour meetings, allowing sufficient time for both presentations and sharing. You will have access to get into the building until 6:30. *Please contact us by 6:25 if you are running late, so we will have someone available to let you in.* 630-492-0032

We will evaluate the effectiveness of this new schedule after a few meetings.



You Are Loved
You Are Loved
You Are Loved
You Are Loved
You Are Loved
You Are Loved
You Are Loved
You Are Loved
You Are Loved
You Are Loved

PFLAG



November Meeting

Our next Support Meeting is set for
Monday, November 11th from 6:30-8:00.

PFLAG Geneva Tri-Cities Guest Speaker for November

Stephanie M. Dewinski
Associate Executive Director
Suicide Prevention Services



Join us on November 11th from 6:30-8 pm
for a discussion on mental health and crisis safety planning.

Join us for an informative session on mental health and crisis safety planning. Discover what a safety plan is, how it can help provide support during tough times, and how to create a personalized plan for yourself or loved ones to help manage overwhelming emotions, connect with resources, and stay safe in moments of crisis. Together, we can create a safer and more compassionate community.

Our presenter Stephanie Dewinski, MSW, LCSW, joined Suicide Prevention Services of America (SPSA) in 2016 as an intern at Aurora University during her Master of Social Work program. Before her master's program, she earned her Bachelor's in psychology with a minor in women, gender, and sexuality studies from NIU in 2014. After graduation, she became the Coordinator of Hotline Paraprofessionals, Director of Education and Training, and now serves as Associate Executive Director of SPSA.



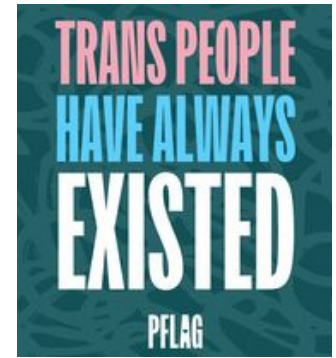
*If this is your first time with us, please reach out for our location
pflaggenevatricities@gmail.com*

Looking Ahead

The holiday season is fast approaching! Following a rather serious discussion during our November meeting, we aim to bring a more uplifting vibe for December!

We intend to provide tips on how our LGBTQ+ loved ones can navigate what could be one of the most stressful times of the year for them. Additionally, we'll explore the best ways to support our LGBTQ+ friends and family during this period. Stay tuned for more information regarding our December meeting!

Upcoming Events



We will join Aurora LGBTQ+ Advisory Board's Transgender Day of Remembrance

Sunday, November 17th from 6-8pm 2200 Ridge Ave, Aurora

"In partnership with HOPE United Church of Christ, we are proud to host Transgender Day of Remembrance. Transgender Day of Remembrance – a day to commemorate the transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming persons who are targeted and killed for living authentically and courageously. What to expect? A safe and meaningful place to give honor to the memory of trans individuals. Powerful and touching speeches Beautiful and heartfelt songs/performances Meet supportive peers and community. Be inspired and celebrate life.

Monthly Meetings

The second Monday of the Month

**from 6:30-8pm
November 11th**

**Hybrid begins in November!
December 9th**

PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities

Thank you!

Membership, Donations & Attendance

We want to express our sincere appreciation to our new members and those who have renewed their membership!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our generous supporters who have made financial contributions to aid the vital work of PFLAG Chapters and PFLAG National; your support is essential to our mission!

Our membership year aligns with PFLAG National, running from October 1st to September 30th the following year. While you can join at any time, we recommend the period from August to November.

Every individual's participation is immensely valuable to us, and we truly appreciate your support. By engaging in our events and activities, you play a crucial role in nurturing the vibrant community we aim to create.

Do you have a creative idea for a presentation, workshop, or social event? We would love to hear your thoughts! Your input is invaluable in helping us create a diverse and engaging program that caters to the interests and needs of our community.

PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois Power of PFLAG Conference

We were excited that our Board and a few chapter members could attend the PCNI Conference.

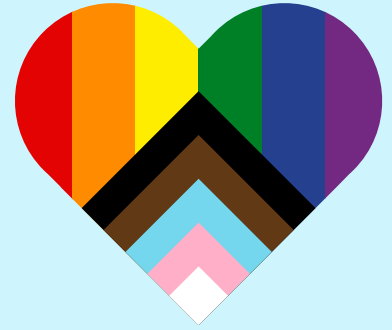
Brian Bond, the Executive Director of PFLAG, spoke virtually; you can watch it [here](#).

As a fun surprise, Andrew, PCNI's President, created an AI video about PFLAG and the conference; you can view it [here](#) as well. Both videos will be available on our Facebook page.

Our keynote speaker, [Art Johnston](#), co-owner of the iconic gay bar Sidetrack, is a civil rights advocate with over forty years of dedication to human rights. He co-founded [Equality Illinois](#), and we encourage you to follow Equality Illinois or sign up for their emails.

Please click on Art's name and read more about his extraordinary work.

Mike Ziri from Equality Illinois delivered a presentation that resonated with us all. It's crucial that we break through the noise and actively participate—listening, speaking up, and engaging at all levels of government.



PFLAG Council of Northern IL biennial Conference The Power of PFLAG



**"Hope will
never be
silent."**

Harvey Milk
First openly gay elected
official in the US

**"It takes no
compromise to
give people their
rights... It takes no
political deal to
give people
freedom."**

Harvey Milk
First openly gay elected
official in the US

**"And the day
came when the
risk to remain
tight in a bud was
more painful than
the risk it took to
blossom."**

Anais Nin

CONNECT WITH US!

On the web: genevatricities.pflag.org



Facebook



Email



Instagram