



# JULY 2025 **NEWSLETTER**

This month, we are showcasing our Pride Events on pages 1 to 3.





#### **Pride Event Snapshots.**

Photo credits to Stephanie, Elaine, Leigh Ann & Randy, Laura, Kayla from

The Artistic Edge and Katie from **ShootwithKatie** 







Our summer events were kicked off with the Barrington Art Festival over Memorial Day weekend. June was amazing with events like Saint Charles Pride, Queerly Beloved in Elgin, Elgin Pride, Aurora Pride on the Plaza, Aurora Pride Parade, School of Rock Pride, Dekalb Pride, Pride Sip & Paint, Batavia Pride/Express Yourself Fashion Show, and we concluded with month of June with the iconic Chicago Pride Parade.



**Express Yourself Fashion Show** photo credits go to #shootwithkatie **ShootwithKatie** 





# LE SOSWG MILLIA

# Chicago Pride Parade and Pride at the Pier







#### **Pride at the Pier**

A few volunteers from PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities volunteered with PCNI at **Pride at the Pier** this year. Looks like it was out of this world!





#### **The Chicago Pride Parade**

**PCNI** organizes the Chicago Pride Parade on behalf of our 18 chapters. They reported that our PCNI Chapters could have nearly 160 participants! That's fantastic!



#### **Pride Event Snapshots**

Photo credits to Stephanie, Elaine, Leigh Ann & Randy, Laura, and Angela











# 2025 Chicago Pride Parade continued...



<u>PFLAG Council of Northern IL</u> (PCNI) proudly represented the northern Illinois PFLAG chapters at the 2025 Chicago Pride Parade.

For those who may be new to this journey, remember that this is just a small beacon of light to remind you that You Are NOT ALONE.

**Photo credits** for the amazing photos taken (like the one above) are given to the wonderful volunteer photographers Cory Kessler, founder of PhotosforFOOD and Marin Chalmers.

Here is the <u>Link to the over 450 photos</u> (& one video) taken by these amazing volunteer photographers. You may use them personally, but PLEASE credit the photographers for their work in any social media posts you share using their photos.

Also enjoy a slideshow created by **Andrew Zanevsky**, our PCNI President using photos set to Home Again, a song he created with help from ChatGPT and Suno "dedicated to everyone who has found their chosen family in PFLAG." <u>Chicago Parade Slideshow</u>

Any text that is underlined is linked, allowing you to click and discover more information!



"Hope will never be silent."

-Harvey Milk

And neither will we...



## Save the Date!



COURAGEOUS LOVE, IN COMMUNITY TOGETHER 2025 PFLAG NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Friday, October 10 - Sunday, October 12, 2025 Chicago, IL

Registration info: Early bird pricing through July 15th

Register Here https://pflag.org/events/2025convention/



# **Upcoming PFLAG Events & Community Activities**

### **PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Events**

- 7/12 We are partnering with <u>Belong Fox Valley for Pride at</u> the <u>Park</u> Wheeler Park in Geneva from 1-4 Drop by anytime!
  - o Entertainment featuring School of Rock
    - <u>Michele Westmass of Thrivent is sponsoring School</u> of Rock for us!
    - Enjoy a Belong Pride Guard Performance too!
- 7/14 PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Chapter Monthly Meeting
  - Join us for a relaxed summer gathering where we'll explore PFLAG resources, share useful tools, and for those who are comfortable sharing; we'll have an extended sharing time. If you prefer to listen, that's perfectly fine; it can be a valuable way to learn.
- 8/11 PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 9/8 PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Chapter Monthly Meeting
- 10/10-10/12 2025 PFLAG National Conference Courageous Love, in Community Together
- 10/13 PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Chapter Monthly Meeting



#### **Discover Belong Fox Valley's Events Here**

- Rainbow Roundup
- The Belong Hangout
- Cheers Queers
- Pride Playgroup
- Weekly Teen Drop-In
- Gender Peers

#### IL West Suburbs LGBT Community social media

Dedicated to spreading the word about LGBT events, news, & resources in the NW, western, and SW suburbs of Chicago.

#### Aurora LGBTQ+ Advisory Board's Events on social media

- Prism
- Coffee & CommuniTEA

#### **Elgin Pride Events**

- LGBTQ+ Book Club
- Game Night
- Chat & Caffe
- Community Conversation



# Pride at the Park Volunteers Needed!

We hope you're able to join us at Pride at the Park on July 12th at Wheeler Park in Geneva anytime from 1-4. If you have a little time to spare, we would greatly appreciate your help whether it's with food, managing our table, or helping with a craft.

Check out our opportunities here: *Pride at the Park* 

# PFLAG GENEVA/TRI-CITIES SUPPORT MEETINGS

THE 2ND MONDAY EVERY MONTH 6:00-8:00 PM

All are welcome! You do not need to be a PFLAG member to attend our meetings or events and our meetings are always free.

You are welcome to join us at 6:00 or 6:30

- Typically, our support and connecting time begins at 6:00
- The educational segment of our meeting usually begins at 6:30

For safety, the doors will remain locked during our meetings.

Our contact number is 630-492-0032
If you know you are going to be late try to call by 6:30.

After 6:40, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to take your call due to the meeting in progress.

Thank you for your understanding!

If you wish to invite a friend to the meeting, that's wonderful!

Please ask them to reach out to us via email so we can share the details!

# Advocacy & Resources

## **Advocate**

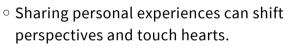
Figure Out What Works For You Where Do We Start?

Calls to Action -

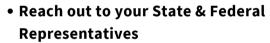
- Show Up Get Involved
  - School Board Meetings
  - Library Board Meetings



- Mobilize There's Power in Numbers
- Organize & Strategize
- Brainstorm
- Make Your Voice Heard
  - Lobbying
  - o 5 Calls Make your voice heard
- Share Your Story



- Join Rallys
- **Protest** Safely



- Email
- o Call



• Action Steps

#### **Advocacy Resources**

- PFLAG National Advocacy Tools: Join the fight!
- Advocacy Video Training Series: Advocacy in 10 minutes or less!
- Advocacy at All Levels: Making Your PFLAG
  Voice Heard



#### Resources

Get Connected
Discover New Resources

- PFLAG National Newsletter
- PFLAG Connects Communities



- A4TE Trans Resource
- ACLU
  - Take Action



- Chase Strangio
  - ∘ Co-Director of the ACLU's LGBT & HIV Project
- Equality IL
- Erin In The Morning
  - o Erin Reed, Trans Reporter Excellent Resource
- GLESEN
- HRC
- Illinois State Board of Elections
- Find My Elected Officials
- Illinois Department of Human Rights
- Illinois Attorney GeneralKwame Raoul
  - Civil Rights Immigration Rights
- LambdaLegal
- <u>Sage Advocacy Services for LGBTQ+</u> Elders
- TJLP Name & Gender change resource
- Trangender Law Center
- The Trevor Project
- Trans Youth for Eqality Foundation (TYEF)
- Heather Cox Richardson
  - Professor of American history-she explains daily how the political landscape affects lives

#### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**CLICK ON THE ICONS TO CONNECT** 





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