



## Welcome!

### Greetings PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities!

We extend a heartfelt welcome to our new friends —it's wonderful to have you with us!

Stephanie Dewinski from [Suicide Prevention Services of America](#) spoke at our September meeting. She led a vital talk on mental health, debunking myths about suicide, identifying warning signs, and guiding us on supporting those in crisis.

### October Meeting

Our meeting this month is scheduled for Monday, October 13th, following PFLAG National's convention in Chicago.

We will share insights and support derived from the convention. Additionally, we will dedicate extra time to connect, uplift, and celebrate one another, while also creating space for difficult experiences as we navigate these uncertain times together.

### Pride Swag & Resources!

Additionally, we will be distributing PCNI buttons, pride swag, and valuable resources for everyone to take home and share with others. Part of our mission is to empower people to advocate for our LGBTQ+ loved ones and friends. What better way to support advocacy than by providing some tools that can help foster meaningful conversations?!

**“People should just be allowed to look in the mirror and see all kinds of possibilities.”**

**– GIRL MANS UP by M-E Girard**



**National  
Coming Out Day  
October 11th**

***"Your life is your story to tell, and coming out is just one brave chapter."***  
**— Unknown**



# Thank you to our Founding Board Members!



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to two of our founding board members for their dedication, leadership, and ideas in launching our PFLAG Chapter.

Our journey began in December 2023 with four strangers who learned together how to build and sustain a PFLAG community—an ongoing and evolving process.

Nonprofit boards experience changes over time, and we are especially grateful for two of our original members who played a crucial role in making this Chapter a reality.

We deeply appreciate Angela for her invaluable contributions, including setting up our chapter website with her spouse, Chris, and establishing essential chapter guidelines and documents. Her perspective and insights have been instrumental in shaping our chapter.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Stephanie for her leadership, great ideas, and for seizing every opportunity to engage in resource tables and speaking presentations. We will truly miss Stephanie's talent for keeping Elaine on track during presentations and offering clarity when words get tangled.

Our chapter's foundation is grateful for their presence.

We're excited to announce Diane Kennedy's appointment as Secretary. We look forward to her fresh ideas and perspectives in our leadership team!

**If you are interested in volunteering or joining our board, please reach out to one of us today or contact us at [pflaggenevatricities@gmail.com](mailto:pflaggenevatricities@gmail.com)**

**Elaine, Jen & Diane**

**You are not only making an impact with your nonprofit services, you are also the voice of those who cannot advocate for themselves.**

**- The Nonprofit-Preneur**

# UPCOMING EVENTS & CHAPTER NEWS!

## School Outreach Committee

The School Outreach Committee has come together, and we're inspired by the incredible ideas and achievable goals. If you're passionate about making a difference, join us today!

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, SIGN UP TODAY!

*"Being a volunteer has taught me the true strength of empathy, compassion, and community."*

- Anonymous



### Join us for our October Volunteer Event!

**When:** Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 10am - 12:45 pm

**Where:** Baker Memorial United Methodist Church  
307 Cedar Avenue in St. Charles

Join us as we create buttons, fold brochures, put together outreach packets and brainstorm together.

Sign up today through the following link: [October](#)

### [Volunteer Event](#)

*Bring a drink & yourself and we'll provide the snacks & the fun!*

**"We need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers."**

— Bayard Rustin

## Upcoming PFLAG Events & Community Organizations

### [PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Events](#)

- 10/10-10/12 [Learning with Love: The 2025 PFLAG National Convention](#) Chicago, IL
- 10/13 PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Monthly Support Meeting 6-8 pm
- 10/25 PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Volunteer Event 10 - 1 held at Baker Memorial Methodist Church Saint Charles
- 10/27 PFLAG Quarterly Board Meeting held on Zoom
- 11/10 PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Monthly Meeting 6-8 pm
- 12/8 PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Monthly Meeting 6-8 pm

### Local LGBTQ+ Organizations

Discover some of our local LGBTQ+ organizations and their monthly activities below. For a more comprehensive list of local organizations, please visit the [Resources](#) section on our website.

- [Belong Fox Valley's Monthly Events Here](#)
- [IL West Suburbs LGBT Community](#)
- [Aurora LGBTQ+ Advisory Board's Events on social media](#)
- [Elgin Pride Events](#)
- [West Suburban Community Network by Youth Outlook](#)



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



## October is LGBTQ+ History Month!

For a plethora of LGBTQ+ history resources—including PFLAG Academy Online Learning Sessions, podcasts, websites, books, and essays—visit [pflag.org/lgbtq-history-month](https://pflag.org/lgbtq-history-month)





# MEETING UPDATES



## **Chapter Sharing and Connecting Time**

***Beginning in November***, our meetings will wrap up with our designated sharing and connecting time, which has been taking place from 6 - 6:30 pm.

## **Safety and Meeting Arrival**

***Beginning in November***, we will no longer have a greeter stationed at the entry doors at 6:30 PM.

If you need to arrive after 6:10, please notify us in advance so we can ensure that a greeter is available to welcome you.

Please keep in mind that we cannot check emails or messages after 5 PM on meeting nights, so it's best to reach out to us earlier.

A greeter will be present from 5:45 to 6:10 PM, after which the doors will be locked for safety.

## **Adding a new Meeting Time Quarterly**

The results from the 14 participants in our survey revealed mixed opinions regarding whether the current meeting days work for everyone.

We are actively working on adding a quarterly Sunday meeting to our schedule. We will share the new meeting dates once they are finalized.

## **Meeting Facilitators**



If you're interested in training to become a PFLAG meeting facilitator, please reach out to us via email. To introduce new days to our meeting schedule, we need volunteers to help guide the discussions.



**Our monthly meetings are held the second Monday of the month from 6 - 8pm.**

**If this is your first time joining us, please contact us by the Sunday before our meeting for our location or if you're interested in joining us via Zoom.**

[\*\*pflaggenevatricities@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:pflaggenevatricities@gmail.com)

### ***Future Speakers and Events***

#### **November Meeting Speaker:**

- Karissa Tobey  
from [Prism Point Counseling](#)

#### **2026 Events & Speakers**

- Friday night movie with Baker United Methodist Church in January
- Meeting speaker, Author Jennifer Marcellis (JJ Celli), a retired Sergeant with a rich career in law enforcement, focusing on LGBTQ+ advocacy.
- Author Event with Nico Lang in the spring for a book tour event. Nico, an esteemed LGBTQ+ reporter and author, will discuss their book "American Teenager," which chronicles the lives of trans youth and their loved ones in seven different U.S. states.

# PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Membership

## *Chapter Member Benefits*

**Thank you to our new members who have joined, and those who have renewed their membership!**

It's that time of year again to renew your PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Membership or to join us for the first time!

Memberships and donations are tax-deductible. Your membership dollars support PFLAG being a presence in the community for everyone that comes next. Whether it be future parents, LGBTQ+ people and families who need support, or other organizations that will benefit from PFLAG's presence and education, keeping PFLAG active and funded is critical.

For more information on membership, please follow this link [PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Membership Benefits](#) or contact us today about becoming a member of our chapter.

*Attendance at PFLAG meetings and events is always open to everyone—membership is not required. However, your contributions through membership ensure PFLAG continues its essential work.*

Unsure about joining? Your presence and volunteer efforts are invaluable to PFLAG's mission. Join us at our meeting, events, and consider volunteering with us. You can also support us by engaging with our social media—share and like our posts to help others connect with us!

## **New Illinois Resource!!!!**

**Have you heard the news? The State of Illinois created the following new resources!**

[IL Pride Connect](#) And

[IL PRIDE CONNECT LEGAL HOTLINE](#)

**Need Legal Help? Call the IL Pride Connect Legal Hotline**

**Call: 855-805-9200**

**Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 AM to 4 PM**

**Languages: English and Spanish - Free and confidential**

***Discover the IL Pride Connect Resources Today!***



## PFLAG Connects Communities

**PFLAG Connects Communities (PCC) provide a safe, virtual, moderated space where people with shared experiences can connect each month.**

**PFLAG National's current communities gather people of [Latino](#), [Black/African American](#), [Asian American and Pacific Islander](#) backgrounds—as well as [Military Families](#), [Families with Gender-Diverse Loved Ones](#), [Grandparents](#) and [Dads](#)—to gain support, ask questions, and learn from others who have been through similar experiences.**

**These meetings cater primarily to family members of LGBTQ+ people, and also welcome members of the LGBTQ+ community.**

**Click on the links to register for an upcoming meeting.**



# 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
  - 5 Calls - Make your voice heard
- **Share Your Story**
  - Sharing personal experiences can shift perspectives and touch hearts.
- **Join Rallies**
- **Protest** Safely
- **Reach out to your State & Federal Representatives**
  - Email
  - Call
  - Go in Person
- **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**
  - Erin Reed, Trans Reporter - Excellent Resource
- **GLESEN**
- **HRC**
- **Illinois State Board of Elections**
- **Find My Elected Officials**
- **Illinois Department of Human Rights**
- **Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul**
  - *Civil Rights Immigration Rights*
- **LambdaLegal**
- **Sage Advocacy Services for LGBTQ+ Elders**
- **TJLP** - Name & Gender change resource
- **Transgender Law Center**
- **The Trevor Project**
- **Trans Youth for Equality 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



PublicPage

@PFLAGgenevaticities



Private Group

pflaggenevaticities@gmail.com



@pflaggenevaticit.bsky.social



@PFLAGgenevaticities

Please note we have a public Facebook page and a private group.

To join the private group, click the blue Facebook icon & answer the membership questions.