



Welcome!

Greetings PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities!

We extend a heartfelt welcome to our new friends - it's wonderful to have you with us! We are also thankful for our continued friendships with all of our PFLAGers!

PCNI's August 2026 issue of Open Doors is here:

<https://tinyurl.com/pcni2608>

If you are opening this link on a mobile device and One Drive asks for permission to access all your photos, click "Later" to escape that, and then click "Open in Browser" (don't Sign In).

This issue is larger than usual and may take a few seconds to open.

In this issue:

- Register for the PCNI Conference - new venue
- Chapter news
- Travel tips for LGBTQ+ people
- Button-making and new designs
- To find all Open Doors issues, please visit pflagil.org/newsletter



The Power of PFLAG Conference

Register Here: [TINYURL.COM/PFLAGIL26](https://tinyurl.com/PFLAGIL26)

NIU Naperville Conference Center
1120 E. Diehl Road
Naperville, IL 60563

Our biennial conference, Power of PFLAG, is a full-day event featuring educational presentations and workshops, community building, and fun. It is organized by the PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois, a coalition of 18 PFLAG chapters.



2026 Conference

Power of PFLAG

October 10, 2026
Naperville, IL

Where: NIU Naperville Conference Center
1120 E. Diehl Road
Naperville, IL 60563

When: Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

The Power of PFLAG Conference brings together LGBTQ+ people, families, allies, educators, advocates, service providers, and community organizations from across Illinois and beyond.

Its workshops offer practical information, varied perspectives, and opportunities to learn together. Education, however, is only part of what makes the conference special.

It is also a place to build community. People often arrive knowing few others – or no one at all – and leave with new connections, resources, and sometimes friendships. For someone who has felt isolated, meeting people who understand can be as valuable as anything presented in a workshop.

On October 10, we will gather to learn, connect, support one another, and strengthen the community that helps us overcome many challenges – together



SCAN TO REGISTER



[Click here to Register](#)

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Saturday, October 10, 2026 | 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

NIU Naperville Conference Center

**Join PFLAG leaders, parents, allies, youth, and professionals
for a full day of learning, connection, and empowerment.**

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- ♥ Keynote by **Channyn Lynn Parker, CEO, Equality Illinois**
- ♥ Expanded exhibitor fair
- ♥ Closing session with **Mike Ziri, Planned Parenthood of Illinois**
- ♥ Networking and community connection
- ♥ Diverse workshops led by expert presenters
- ♥ Continental breakfast and lunch included
- ♥ New youth-led workshops for ages 13 and up
- ♥ Quiet spaces for rest and reflection

REGISTER NOW – \$20 PER PERSON

PCNI's cost is approximately \$80 per attendee, but registration is only \$20.
Please consider adding a donation when purchasing your ticket, if you can.

[TINYURL.COM/PFLAGIL26](https://tinyurl.com/PFLAGIL26)

SAFE. CELEBRATED. EMPOWERED. LOVED.



PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities August Meeting



Please note that there will not be a Zoom option; we will only be meeting in person.

Knowing how to shape and share our stories to create meaningful, lasting change is a powerful skill. Our personal experiences have the ability to build understanding, inspire compassion, and move others to action. As many of us encourage friends, family, and neighbors to vote for equality-minded candidates this November, learning how to share our stories effectively is more important than ever.

Please don't hesitate to join us if this isn't where you are in your journey. There is no expectation that you share your story. Simply listening, connecting with others, and knowing you are not alone can be just as meaningful.

Whether you're attending your very first meeting or have been part of our community for years, there is a place for you.

For those who are a little further along in their journey, support meetings also provide an opportunity to encourage others, share your experiences, and offer hope to those who may be just beginning theirs.



PFLAG

GENEVA/TRI-CITIES

Monday, August 10th

Join us, Monday, August 10th from 6 - 8 pm

****There will be no Zoom option for this meeting; it will be in person only****

Our Stories, Our Strength



Join us for a welcoming evening of sharing, listening, and connecting. Share as much—or as little—of your journey as feels comfortable. Every story matters, and there is just as much value in listening as there is in sharing.

If we have new attendees joining us, we'll also take a few minutes to introduce our chapter and PFLAG National. We'll share a brief overview of our mission, the support, education, and advocacy we provide, and highlight a few of PFLAG National's current initiatives.

There will be plenty of time to ask questions, share concerns, connect with others, and learn from one another in a welcoming, confidential, and affirming environment.

This meeting will be held in person only.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please reach out to us at pflaggenevatricities@gmail.com.

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

Annual Meeting & Chapter Elections

It's time for our Annual Meeting!

When and Where: Monday, August 24th 6:00 pm via Zoom

Current members will receive the Agenda and the Zoom link a few weeks prior to the meeting.

- This year is also an election year for our three primary board positions: President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- All active PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities chapter members are invited to attend the meeting and vote for these positions.

During the meeting, we will:

- Review PFLAG's mission and vision
- Share our chapter's activities and accomplishments from the past fiscal year
- Present the Treasurer's report
- Recognize departing board members
- Introduce the board nominees and hold the member vote
- Discuss plans for the upcoming fiscal year
- Preview the strategic planning work that will begin at our October board meeting

We hope our active chapter members will join us as we reflect on the past year and help shape the future of PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities.

Membership Drive

It's Time for Our Membership Drive and Renewal Campaign!

Whether you're renewing your membership or considering joining for the first time, your support helps PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities provide support, education, and advocacy for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them.

Interested in Membership but Want to Learn More?

- PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities membership follows PFLAG's fiscal year, which runs from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027.
- **Thinking about joining? Anyone who signs up now or renews their membership in August or September will be counted for the October 2026 to September 30, 2027 membership year.**
- You may join at any time during the year; however, all memberships expire on September 30, regardless of the date you join. **For example, if you join January 1, 2027, your membership expires on September 30, 2027.**

Learn more about the benefits of membership here: [PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Membership](#)

PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities is a volunteer-led, nonpartisan organization. Membership dues and donations support our programs, meetings, education, advocacy, and community outreach. We welcome everyone who shares our mission of creating a caring, just, and affirming world for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them.

Questions? Please don't hesitate to contact us. We'd be happy to help!

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



Employment Opportunities



We're Launching Something New!

From time to time, we'll share employment opportunities that are brought to our attention by organizations committed to fostering inclusive and affirming workplaces. While workplace experiences vary, we hope this resource helps connect our community with opportunities where they can thrive.

Over the past year, we've had members of our community reach out asking if we know of LGBTQ+ affirming employers and workplaces.

This past week we received a notice of a great employment opportunity we were asked to share.

That's why we're launching a new resource! As employment opportunities are brought to our attention from organizations that are committed to fostering inclusive and affirming workplaces, we'll share them with our community.

While every workplace experience is unique, we hope this resource helps connect LGBTQ+ people and allies with opportunities where they can feel respected, valued, and supported.

Stay tuned for future job postings and employment opportunities!

This directory/resource is based on community-shared experiences and publicly available information. Inclusion does not constitute an endorsement or guarantee, and workplace experiences may vary.



Outpatient Family Medicine Transformed

Hiring a Front Desk Coordinator position

8/3/26 - Posted

- As a clinic that supports inclusive and affirming services, we are hoping to connect with individuals who are passionate about patient-centered care. We serve a diverse patient population with focus on whole-person care, including primary care, mental health and gender-affirming services.



Outpatient Family Medicine Transformed
303 East Army Trail Road
Suite 417
Bloomington, IL 60108
(224) 803-2618
www.opfmt.com

Contact:

Jason "Jaye" Remot (They/Them, He/Him)
Family Medicine ~ Gender Affirming Care
Patient Coordinator | LGBTQ+ Wellness Program Liaison
jremot@opfmt.com www.opfmt.com

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Click on the Icons to Connect



Public



Private



pflaggenevaticities@gmail.com



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

Chapter Volunteer Needs and Local LGBTQ+ Organizations

Chapter Volunteer Need

Zoom Moderator

"Volunteers are love in motion." - Anonymous

We're looking for someone to serve as a backup Zoom Moderator for our monthly support meetings when our current moderator, Bill, is unavailable.

When: The second Monday of each month, from 5:45–8:00 p.m.

This role requires approximately 2¼ hours per meeting. If several volunteers are interested, the responsibility can be shared and may not be needed every month.

Training will be provided. Responsibilities include:

- Admitting Zoom attendees to the meeting
- Monitoring the chat
- Sharing questions submitted through the chat
- Posting links and information mentioned during the meeting

This is a great way to support our meetings from behind the scenes and help everyone feel connected and included.

Local LGBTQ+ Organizations

- [Belong Fox Valley's Monthly Events Here](#)
- [IL West Suburbs LGBT Community](#)
- [Aurora LGBTQ+ Advisory Board's Events on social media](#)
- [Elgin Pride Events](#)
- [Youth Outlook](#)
- [Naper Pride](#)
- [DeKalb Pride](#)
- [Joe Erbantraut "queering the burbs"](#)



Discover some of our local LGBTQ+ organizations and their monthly activities.

For a more comprehensive list of local organizations, please visit the [Resources](#) section on our website.

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

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Click on the Icons to Connect



Public



Private



pflaggenevatricities@gmail.com



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

Advocacy & Resources

Advocacy

Where Do We Start?

Figure Out What Works for You

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 Rally's
- 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](#)



PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities National and Local Resources and Organizations

Resources



IL Pride Connect

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

More 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*



Click on the links to take you to the websites