



Volume 2|Issue 3
March 2022

PFLAG Riverview Newsletter

Our Mission

Our mission is to build on a foundation of loving families united with LGBTQ+ people and allies who support one another, and to educate ourselves and our communities to speak up as advocates until all hearts and minds respect, value and affirm LGBTQ people.

Director's Corner

Why I March....

With tears streaming down my face, I sat on the sidelines of the St Pete PRIDE parade watching and celebrating as each float, band and participant passed by with such joy and enthusiasm! Being in full time music ministry for most of my career, music has always been extremely important to me. Hearing the marching band as they passed by was exhilarating beyond words. Tears, tears, and more tears began to flow! The sense of belonging, the sense of purpose and validation was so overwhelming to me as I had been in hiding for so many years, unable to express who I really was inside. Shame and Self-hatred were very common emotions and feelings for me in those days. But no, not on this day! I was finally FREE. Free to be who I was created to be. No, it didn't matter at all to me that the parade was 4 hours long!!! In fact, had spent decade after decade dreaming and longing for this exact moment in time. For that reason, the PRIDE parade will always hold a very special place in my heart and will forever be a reminder of the Freedom that I so gratefully embrace today!!

Russ Jones
PFLAG Riverview
Leadership Team

If you are interested in marching or helping out in our booth during Tampa Pride please contact Marisol Prokopowicz mprokopo@gmail.com



Elections

Per our bylaws PFLAG Riverview hold elections every other year. We will be holding elections for President, Treasurer and Secretary at after our in-person meeting Tuesday March 22nd. Elections are open to PAID members of our chapter. Our current slate is President: Faith Moller, Treasurer: Nico Van West, and Secretary Marisol Prokopowicz. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please contact Marisol Prokopowicz (mprokopo@gmail.com) prior to March 15th.



Welcome to Leadership Team



Nichelle Neal (she/her/hers) Social Media manager for Facebook



Lindsay McClelland (she/her/hers) Membership Coordinator



Annie Wescott Social Media Manager for Instagram



Kimmi Waechter (she/her/hers) Events Coordinator

Upcoming Events

March 8th 7pm: PFLAG Connects Zoom Support



Nathan Bruemmer is a proud Floridian. He has worked as an educator and LGBTQ+ advocate for over 20 years. Nathan was recently appointed by Commissioner Nikki Fried to serve as Florida's LGBTQ Consumer Advocate with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. In this role he serves as the highest ranked LGBTQ+ official in the state. Nathan holds a Juris Doctor from Stetson University College of Law and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from University of South Florida. He is an alumnus of Leadership St. Pete, serves on the board of directors of Equality Florida, serves on the St. Pete NAACP Legal Redress Committee and is a 3rd grade reading tutor with Lawyers for Literacy

March 22nd 7pm: PFLAG Connect In Person Support at The Regent



Our special guest is our very own Nico Van West. My name is Nico, and I'm the current treasurer of PFLAG Riverview. I love all things fandom, including cosplay, fan fictions and overall geeking out. My sexuality is Demi-pansexual and I'm Non-Binary using they/them pronouns. I am currently in a relationship with my wonderful girlfriend. One of my biggest goals in life is to make an impact in my community and in the lives of the kids in my educational field. I want to give the people around me a safe space to always be themselves (even if they aren't out to the rest of the world yet.) I will be speaking on March 22nd, 2022, at our in-person meeting and I look forward to sharing my story! Hope to see you there!

March 22nd AFTER MEETING: PFLAG Riverview Elections for PAID members

March 22nd AFTER MEETING: Pride volunteers/marchers meeting

March 26th : Tampa Pride!! 8:30-3:30: Street Fair 3:30-5:30: Diversity Parade
<https://tampapride.org>

If you need a chapter shirt please purchase [here](#):



Future Events

April 6th 6-10pm: Greg Anderson Events is hosting Drag Queen Bingo at The Salty Shamrock 6186 N U.S. Hwy 41, Apollo Beach, FL 33572 \$10 for 10 rounds of Bingo. All proceeds go to PFLAG Riverview.

April 12th 7pm: PFLAG Connects in person meeting at The Regent

April 23rd: Metro Youth Summit



It's back! Our annual LGBTQ+ Youth Summit (for ages 13-17) is coming up soon. The LGBTQ+ Youth Summit is an annual, free conference that provides information on Health, Education, and Empowerment so that LGBTQ+ youth leave knowing that they belong and have an important voice in the community.

Metro Inclusive Health hosts this event in partnership with **GLSEN Tampa Bay** to combat the discrimination LGBTQ+ young people still face in school, at home and within their community.

Attendees are made aware of the support and resources locally in the Tampa Bay area as well as nationally. Through community involvement, we inspire young leaders and work toward an I inclusive future.

With that in mind, our theme for 2022 is LGBTQ+ Visibility.

Workshops will include:

LGBTQ+ History
 The Art of Drag
 Safer Sex

Poetry and Precision of Language

Date Safe: Teen Dating Violence in LGBTQ+ youth

LGBTQ Ableism and Intersectionality

The day's events will also include **raffle prizes, and a film screening** from the Tampa International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (TIGLFF) during lunch.

The deadline to register is April 8, 2022.

<https://www.metrotampabay.org/events/youth-summit-2022/>

April 26th 7pm: PFLAG Connects zoom meeting

Our special guest will be Isaac Salazar (he/him/el) outreach and education coordinator from Zebra Coalition

May 1st 2pm: PFLAG Riverview Snap House Fundraiser



SAVE THE DATE!! PFLAG Riverview is hosting a SUNDAY FUNDAY at The Snap House to raise funds for our upcoming Youth Pride Prom 6/17/22 at The Regent! The Snap House is a self-portrait inspired studio and Event Hosting space consisting of 23 uniquely decorated scenes. Your \$25 ticket gives you access for one hour. Space is limited so purchase your ticket in advance using PayPal(Pflagriverviewfamily@gmail.com) , Venmo (@PFLAG-Riverview), or in person at at upcoming PFLAG meeting with cash, check, or credit card. Text Faith for more information. 813-833-7972.

May 3rd 7pm: PFLAG Riverview Exec/Leadership meeting

May 10th 7pm: PFLAG Riverview Connects Zoom meeting

May 24th 7pm: PFLAG Riverview Connects in person meeting at The Regent

June 7th 7pm: PFLAG Riverview Connects Zoom meeting

June 17th 7pm-11pm: Join us down the rabbit hole for... A Night in Wonderland

An inclusive Prom presented by PFLAG Riverview for 9th-12th grade and Class of 2020 and 2021

***From time to time, we have special guests share on both zoon and in-person support meetings. Please feel free to email Faith at Pflagriverviewfamily@gmail.com to offer your suggestions for future topics of discussion. *

Please Follow Us on Social Media



PFLAG RIVERVIEW



@pflagriverview



@pflag_riverview

You can find additional resources on our webpage
<http://www.pflagriverview.org/>

