

FEBRUARY

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OUT & ABOUT

The newspaper serving the GLBT Nashville & Knoxville community

NASHVILLE



PFLAG provides supporting arm for Nashville

by **Jerry Jones**
Publisher

They come together once a month and meet in a small classroom. A time for each of them to reflect, sit, talk, and provide support for those in need, those questioning and those who aren't sure what to think.

"They" are the members of Nashville's Parent's, Family, and Friends of Lesbian and Gays (PFLAG), a support group for

anyone who wants to learn more about someone they love, who is gay.

Members of the Nashville PFLAG group probably reflect that of PFLAG groups across America – they are young and old – parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, and friends who seek support and to provide support.

"We discuss the joys and sometimes less than enjoyable issues that GLBT indi-

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viduals and their loved ones experience and how to better understand one another," explained PFLAG Co-Chair H.G. Stovall.

Monthly meetings are held at the Cohn Adult Learning Center, located on Park Avenue just off Charlotte Avenue. They meet on the third Tuesday of every month.

"Many parents take solace out of meeting and getting to know happy, healthy, successful, people who just happen to also be gay or lesbian," Stovall explained.

PFLAG was started to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

The local PFLAG officers are Don Shockley Co-Chair; H.G. Stovall Co-Chair; Lynda Lewis Secretary/Treasurer; Jeff Porter Director of Communications and Jennifer Freeman Director of Fundraising and Programming. Stovall said the local mission of the PFLAG group reflected that of the national PFLAG groups, which is to envision a society that embraces everyone, including



The new officers for PFLAG are (left to right) Jeff Porter, HG Stovall, Don Shockley, Lynda Lewis, and Jennifer Freeman.

those of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. He stressed that all were welcome, including members of the GLBT community and questioning individuals.

"The fact that gays and lesbians are welcome is one of the hardest barriers we have had to break," Stovall said. "Only with respect, dignity, and equality for all will we reach our full potential as human beings. PFLAG welcomes the participation and support of all who share in, and hope to realize this vision."

There are several ways to get more information on Nashville's PFLAG. You may visit their website at www.pflagnashville.org, email them at PFLAGNashville@hotmail.com or call the information line at 615-366-0888. ■

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