

20 YEARS AND STILL GROWING

FALL 2005

Thoughts From The Prez: Marti Says Goodbye!!!!

This is the last letter I will be writing to you as President of Cincinnati PFLAG. There have been many times over the last three years I have thought about this moment and what I would say to all of you.

When I became president, my vision for PFLAG was to begin to build bridges into the Greater Cincinnati Community. The need for our chapter to be out into the community, visible, networking with other individuals and organizations, I felt, would bring new energy and creativity into the focus of our work.

Since that time, we have developed close relationships with the Cincinnati Men's Chorus, the ISQCCBE, the Rainbow Band, the Pride Committees, and MUSE, to name a few, without ever losing focus on our primary mission; supporting the friends and family of GLBT people. In fact, these alliances have helped us spread the word about our PFLAG chapter in ways that would not have been possible otherwise. I may have had the vision, but it needed all of us to get on board and help our chapter grow.

In my three-year term as your president, PFLAG Cincinnati has not only gained positive community recognition as one of the outstanding service organizations in the Greater Cincinnati area, our chapter has been recognized as one of the best chapters in the Great Lakes region at the national level.

On a personal level, the opportunity to represent our chapter out in the community has profoundly changed me. I witnessed, firsthand, the courage and determination of parents (both old and new), as well as friends and family not only at our monthly meetings, but out in the community as well as they journeyed along the path of human rights. I saw the sur-

prised faces of our scholarship winners as they received their awards. And I was sincerely moved at the strength of our advocacy to win back the right for protection with the Repeal of Article XII.

Everywhere I went, as your representative, I was met with sincere gratitude, received many hugs, and I heard cheers whenever PFLAG was mentioned. How could I not be changed by events such as these and so numerous to mention that I am without words to describe them.

I would like to thank my PFLAG Board and Committee Chairs— Dorothy Byers, Rick Kay, Marie and Tom Jenkins, Monica Plett, Tim Gross, Kathleen Alexander, Dolores and Steve Bebko and Ric Stackpole. These individuals were the best group to work with and allowed me to grow into the leadership necessary for our chapter. Along with these individuals are some special friends – Linda Arnest (who got me here in the first place), June and Harold Delph (my PFLAG parents), Marian Weage (whose wisdom I could not do without) Kathy Laufmann, Lynne Lefebvre, and Tim and Carol Egbert. To all those who attended our monthly chapter meetings, I say thank you for teaching me how to love unconditionally and for being role models of courage .

In the GLBT community there were those who gave me encouragement, support and laughter – Harold Keutzer, Bruce Beisner, Cheryl Eagleson, Robbie Linkmeyer (aka Roberta Bigg), Tom Wherry, Patrick Coyle, Lee Chenault, Greg Barker, Charles Gordon (aka Miss Sylvia), Jay Rickles, Harry Voll (aka Truly Scrump-tous) and Brooklyn Steele Tate. To all of you in the GLBT community, thank you for listening to me, welcoming me and embracing me, you helped me grow and change in so many ways.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and wellbeing of gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gender persons and their families and friends, through **support**, to cope with the adverse society, through **education**, to enlighten an ill-informed public, and through **advocacy**, to end discrimination and to secure civil rights. PFLAG provides an opportunity for confidential dialog about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human dignity. Meetings are open to all and are completely confidential.

About the PFLAG Cincinnati Chapter:

Our *regular* meetings are always held on the **second Tuesday of each month** at Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church, 103 William Howard Taft Rd., from 7:00 – 9:30 P.M. Meetings are open to parents friends and family of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons, as well as to gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender persons.

Board meetings are held on the Thursday before our monthly meeting, starting at 7:00 P.M. Please contact a Board Member for information about attending meetings.

From the membership committee

Please remember to check the mailing label on this issue of the newsletter. We have included the date of expiration on your mailing label to send a gentle reminder of when your PFLAG dues expire. The date will also include a letter indicating the type of membership dues you have paid. If a date does not appear on the label that either means that you are not yet a member or that our records do not show when you last paid your dues.

Your dues are our only source of revenue. Our only other fundraiser is the annual banquet and the proceeds from that event are earmarked for scholarships. We depend upon your generous support through your dues.

If it is time to renew your membership, please use the form included in this newsletter to do so.
Thank you for your help!

Tom Jenkins, Membership Chair

NUT & BOLTS

- This is your newsletter, too. If you have story ideas or would like to contribute please contact Tim Gross.
- The PFLAG Library has many great books, videos, and other resources about coming out, GLBT issues for children and families, be sure to check them out at our next meeting.
- The Cincinnati Chapter of PFLAG is happy to provide a speaker for your group or organization, business, school or church. Please contact the PFLAG Help Line at 513-721-7900 to obtain details about requesting a speaker for your group.
- If you have any announcements you would like to include in the newsletter, email them to Tim Gross @ pflagtim@yahoo.com, Submission deadline for 2006 are the first week of January, April, July, and October.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE WEEKLY!

Wanna know what's going on in Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky's GLBT and supportive communities each and every week? Subscribe to "The Weekly." It's a free service presented by "Greater Cincinnati GLBT News" and the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Cincinnati which will send you an email calendar of events every Friday night. The Weekly includes listings for community organization meetings, social ad support group gatherings, theatre and arts events, sports leagues, nightlife happenings and much more. To subscribe to this great FREE service,

**WHEN YOU NO LONGER NEED PFLAG
PFLAG NEEDS YOU**

From the incoming president...

Dorothy F. Byers

Timorous. That's it. That word describes my feelings as I contemplate the task of being President of PFLAG. Why timorous? Just look at the shoes I am to fill, those of Marti Kwiatkowski, our out-going president. Marti, the award-winning president, Marti the dedicated doer, Marti the heart-warming and thought-provoking leader, Marti who made newcomers welcome and extended the reach of PFLAG beyond our quiet borders.

Timorous. Not the typical attribute of a would-be leader. But then I have been timorous before. As when our son Mark came out in 2000 at age 18 and I faced the unknown, as when I attended my first PFLAG meeting (me at a support group? never!), as when I first "came out" to relatives and friends, as when I first spoke outside our safe circle about PFLAG as scholarship committee chair, and as when I knocked on the first neighborhood door to get out the vote against Article XII.

Timorous. Yes I was. How did I survive the 5-year journey thus far? You have to be in the circle at PFLAG meetings to understand what carries us through. It's the stories, the need for understanding, the compassion, the supportive forces that say you're OK and you can do this. It's the parental instinct that wants the best for a child. It's the anger that swells when you hear a legislator say (as I did recently in an NPR report on the gay marriage discussion in CA), "they just want to be treated like they're normal – and they're not." What?

That statement calls for action, that's all. I dream of a day when there will be no need for PFLAG. Everyone will understand and tolerate, if not embrace, their gay child or co-worker. The gay community will be



a peaceful community, immune from ill-wishing rhetoric and crippling legislation and even violence. But that day is not here. So PFLAG is.

I have not been on the campaign trail with a hot platform. I have not planned how to take ownership of the presidency. That's not how PFLAG works. I will not work my agenda through PFLAG; PFLAG will work through me. My vision as incoming president is PFLAG's vision. It emanates from the mission that we hear every month, to support, educate and advocate. It emanates from the ideas, energy and spirit of the people who attend PFLAG meetings. It emanates from the inspiration of those who have shown admirable dedication to achieve the mission.

First and foremost, PFLAG will continue to be a first line of support for those needing it. Our web site and our presence at diversity events broaden awareness and will hopefully help people in need, if not draw them to our meetings. Our web site, programs and library will provide renewing educational stimulation as we all grow through our stages of development. Our scholarship program is vital in supporting gay and straight-ally students, as well as rewarding the advocacy activities of these young people. As long as we hear statements from persons in public office that "they just want to be treated like they're normal," there is no skirting the advocacy mission. We will find ways for PFLAG's "seasoned" members to push the advocacy envelope without disrupting the safety zone of support for newcomers.

That's the vision. And I am still in the circle, needing your support!

Cooking with Tim

Grandpa's Fudge and Creamy Egg Nog

Grandpa's Fudge

3 cups sugar
1 can evaporated milk
3/4 butter

Heat to 238 degrees stirring constantly once it starts to boil. Once to 238 remove from heat and stir in 12 oz bag of chocolate chips, 1/2 bag mini marshmallows, and 1 tsp of vanilla and optional 2 cups

walnuts nuts slightly chopped. Pour on wax paper lined cookie sheet and let set up. Cut and store in air tight container.

Creamy Egg Nog

4 egg separated
5 oz sweetened condensed milk
1 TBL sugar

1 TBL Vanilla
4 1/2 cups milk
1 oz light rum
1/4 tsp nutmeg

Beat egg yolks until thick and light. Stir in milks, sugar and vanilla. Beat egg whites until stiff peaks and then slowly fold into the milk mixture. Add rum to taste and garnish with nutmeg



A LETTER OF THANKS TO THE ISQCCBE

Dear Imperial Sovereign Queen City Court of the Buckeye Empire and Honored Guests of the Coronation XV

On Behalf of the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of PFLAG and all the other wonderful charities chosen by the ISQCCBE this year, we would like to offer our congratulations to Empress XIV Roberta Bigg and Emperor Tom Wherry as well as the rest of the ISQCCBE for a triumphant reign.

Our PFLAG parents were impressed with the dedication and sincerity exhibited by the monarchs, the performers and everyone associated with the ISQCCBE. We will never forget all those who volunteered to perform for the "Meet The Parents" shows.

Since 1992, and with The Court's help PFLAG Cincinnati has awarded over \$76,000 in scholarships to talented and deserving gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered college students in the Greater Cincinnati area. This would not be possible without the help of the ISQCCBE. Because of your efforts, gay and lesbian youth will provide the needed leadership for the future.

The mission of the ISQCCBE is a worthy one and with your great heart you embraced us and lifted us up. And we are grateful for knowing each and everyone of you. Thank you for sharing your gifts of light and love with us.

Congratulations on a successful reign and a year we will never forget. A special thank you to the departing monarchs, best wishes to the Monarchical Candidates, and to all of the court members. PFLAG hugs to all of you.

Sincerely,
Marti Kwiatkowski
President
Cincinnati PFLAG

This letter appeared on the ISQCCBE's Coronation's Program Book held September 10, 2005

SMALL GROUP FACILITATOR TRAINING

Anyone interested in becoming a small group facilitator should attend a training on Thursday, November 17th at 7:00 p.m. The training will be held at the meeting room for Maisons Lafayette Condominiums at 879 Rue de La Paix off of Ludlow Avenue. This training will be presented by Andy Ruffner.

VICTOR LLOYD TO SPEAK AT THE NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

"Gay, Left Out and Proud: Coming Out In A Heterosexual World"

Victor Lloyd has a Masters Degree in Theology and a Masters in Pastoral Counseling. He is a Mental Illness Training Specialist for the Mental Health Association. He is a community educator about mental illness. He also teaches law enforcement and other first responders about mental illness. He is a gay man who came out late (37) in life, he is single and available!!!

Thoughts From The Prez: Marti Says Goodbye!!!! continued

I would like to congratulate the new officers: Dorothy Byers – President; Mark Smith – Treasurer; and Monica Plett – Secretary. May your lives change as mine has as you learn that all things are possible with love, and love is truly the only thing

that matters. Think, dream and plan with your heart and you will have done your best. Good luck!!!

So, this is a bittersweet moment for me. Though I say good-bye to this advocacy role on behalf of PFLAG, I

know there are many doors waiting to open as this one closes. Remember, "You are a child of the universe, no less than the moon and the stars, you have a right to be here." PFLAG hugs to you all.

Miss Sylvia & Greg Barker Crowned New Monarchs of the Queen City Court

On Saturday September 10, the Imperial Sovereign Queen City Court of the Buckeye Empire held its annual Coronation Ball at the Millennium Hotel in downtown Cincinnati. The highlight of the evening was the crowning of Greg Barker as Emperor XV and Miss Sylvia as Empress XV.

Queen City Court members were joined by leaders of the local GLBT and supportive community and many dignitaries from Courts across the country for this special night which paid tribute to outgoing Empress Roberta Bigg and Emperor Tom Wherry. During the past year Roberta and Tom have reigned over one of the most successful times in The Court's history. Between September of 2004 and this past month, the ISQCCBE raised over \$75,000 for its designated charities which include AIDS Volunteers of Cincinnati, Caracole, Cincinnati PFLAG, the YWCA Breast Cancer

Fund and AIDS Volunteers of Northern Kentucky.

During the Coronation program many local GLBT leaders were saluted for their work in our community. Outgoing Cincinnati PFLAG president Marti Kwiatkowski was awarded the Nita Miller Award for Outstanding Work from an Individual of Reign XIV's Designated Charities. The Lydia Grant Humanitarian Award went to longtime GLSEN leader and PFLAG member Kathy Laufman.

Following many great performances by local Court members and visiting monarchs, and the final ceremonial walks of Empress Roberta and Emperor Tom, the results of The Court's monarchial elections were announced. Miss Sylvia will reign as Empress XV, H.M.I.S.M. "The Sweet, Innocent and Precious Golden Beak of the Jeweled and Elegant Penguin." Her partner for the coming year will be

Emperor XV Greg Barker, H.M.I.S.M. "The Serene Yin/Yang, Winged Lion of Acceptance and Change."

On Sunday October 23rd, the College of Monarchs of the Queen City Court will host its annual Investitures show and ceremony. The theme will be "Under the Big Top...That's All Folks! Cartoon Review" and the show is set to start at 7pm and will be held at The Dock.

Greater Cincinnati GLBT News congratulates Empress Sylvia and Emperor Greg and looks forward to a great year of service and fun for the community. For more on upcoming Court activities, please visit

www.isqccbe.org

Taken from the October 2005 Issue of the "Greater Cincinnati GLBT News". You can view the entire edition at .

www.greatercincinnatiqlbtnews.com

Schedule of Events

- **November 3-5 8pm**
November 10-12 8pm
"Tick, Tick...Boom"
Know Theater Tribe
Know Theater, 1425 Sycamore Street
- **November 4-5 8pm**
November 6 3pm
"Voices of Resounding Feminism"
Muse Concert
St. John's Unitarian Universalist Church, Clifton
- **November 8 7pm**
PFLAG Meeting
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
- **November 11 4-8pm**
Court Sports Silent Auction
ISQCCBE
Rosie Tavern
- **December 10 8:07pm**
December 11 2:07
"A Swing' in Holiday"
Cincinnati Men's Chorus
Aronoff Center for the Arts
- **December 10 TBA**
Carolign with the Court
ISQCCBE
Location TBA
- **December 13 7pm**
PFLAG Meeting
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church
- **January 10 7pm**
PFLAG Meeting
Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church.



Caitlin, Linda, June and Fannie P. Flag (AKA Tim)



Linda, Marti, and Marian



Monica, Marti, and Marian



Roberta and Tom



Rick, Scott Knox and Jim



Empress XV Miss Sylvia & Emperor XV Greg Barker

Photos Courtesy of June Delph and the ISQCCBE



WALKING THE WALK

Jane Biddinger

Over the past few years I'd thought about participating in the AIDS walk. But then something always got in the way—a vacation, an appointment, or sometimes just the lure of my bed. After all, they start early. Registration is at 8:00 a.m. and the sneakers hit the sidewalk at 9:00 a.m. And I'm talking Saturday morning. In downtown Cincinnati. And they walk for five miles, not all of them flat. Sending a check and pulling the covers over my head seemed like a perfectly reasonable course of action.

This year, however, my calendar was unusually blank on Saturday, September 17th, the day of the walk. I recognized the lameness of my excuses and was besieged by a nagging feeling that there was more to my resistance than I had realized. This after all, was not a walk for babies, or for the elderly. This was the AIDS Walk. A walk for the disease of closeted conversations, the disease associated with the gay community, the disease that, as a mother of a gay son, I try so hard to padlock from my mind. And this may not be a cakewalk in conservative Cincinnati. But I felt a pull. A prodding that was gentle, but strong enough to let me know that the time was right. I could do this. I should do this. I would do this. And lo and behold, my conscience, in the guise of a full bladder, called me from my slumber before the alarm rang. It was time to walk the walk that I had up till then only talked. I dragged my husband out of bed too.

On our drive from Fairfield to Sawyer Point I thought about my earliest recollection of AIDS. A friend was having blood work done in the search for an answer to the fatigue that plagued him. One of his buddies gave him a jab and said maybe it was that new disease AIDS. We laughed. We were smug in the confidence that this wasn't our problem. Not something that happened to our kind. That was a lifetime ago. When AIDS was a curiosity to me but not a worry. When my son was a toddler and my concerns were runny noses and scraped knees. When I didn't know he was gay—one of those high-risk people.

We parked our car and joined the mass of walkers. We witnessed a variety of methods for getting in shape for the trek. Some hardy guys, legs pushed firmly into the sides of the concrete buildings, stretched hamstrings. Others jogged in place. Bill and I chose a course of action that clearly labeled us novices. While the others fine-tuned their engines, we filled our tanks

with muffins, juice, and Starbucks. No energy shortage for us.

We looked over the crowd. No sign of the hecklers or protesters I had feared. No uncompassionate conservatives professing AIDS to be God's curse. Rather I saw rows of booths manned by a multitude of volunteers. Booths sponsored by big name corporations that I'd remember and support. We didn't ever not like Sara Lee, but we grew even fonder of her now that her pastries fueled our efforts and debunked my cakewalk theory. Dayna Eubanks from WKRC-Local 12 news was spurring us on as the Men's Chorus provided music to warm up by.

We hooked up with The Delph team—David Maschinot, Cory Johnson, Tim Gross and Linda Arnest, all familiar faces. We met our leaders June and Harold many years ago through PFLAG. I remember their first meeting. Harold told their story. A letter from their son Paul changed their lives. A letter from California. A letter telling them he was gay. A letter telling them he was in the hospital. A letter telling them he had AIDS. I remember their pain. I remember their anguish. I remember the catch in my chest. I remember the fear that flooded through me. AIDS had a face. AIDS had a name. AIDS did strike people like us.

I talked with Harold as our team grouped for a photo. He told me about Paul's friends who were so supportive during his illness. How helpful they were as he and June and their daughter Linda moved Paul back home. He told me how AVOC led them through the maze of paperwork and supplied medical equipment. How much it meant to have the AVOC staff holding their hands as they let go of Paul's.

It was nearly time for the walk to begin. The crowd was getting psyched. The more experienced were flexing muscles and adjusting sweatbands. I was searching for a garbage can to toss my muffin wrapper into as I finished my second fruit juice. Mission accomplished, wrapper tossed, the walk was on. The faster walkers passed us by as we all established our own rhythm and pace. We settled into a middle of the bunch position. The crowd was diverse. Young people. Old people. Babies in strollers. A politician or two. A woman in a wheel chair making the walk in her own way.

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MARTHA WEYAND SCHOLARSHIP WINNER FOR 2005 IS ANNOUNCED

The Martha Weyand Scholarship winner for 2005 is James (Derek) Mize. James Mize is presently a UC student working on a degree in Women's Studies with future plans to attend law school. Derek was the facilitator of the M4M Support group at UC that provided attendees with guidance with regard to being GLBT on campus. Derek spoke out with regard to his experience as a gay athlete on campus. Always an advocate, Derek also participated in the successful repeal of Article XII. He is an active member of UC's Alliance. This year's award to Derek is \$1,300.00.

The Martha Weyand Scholarship Fund was created in memory of long-time GLBT activist and PFLAG member, Martha Weyand, who died on May 21st, succumbing to Alzheimer's Disease. Gene Sell, a personal friend of Martha's, donated his time, talent (and money) via a comedy and drag show at the Funny Bone Comedy Club at Newport on the Levee and another show at Carol's

on Main. The two shows raised a total of \$4,010.00 for this scholarship fund.

Gene was very fond of Martha Weyand and wanted her to be remembered for her tireless efforts throughout her life benefiting the gay community. Martha served as Cincinnati PFLAG's first treasurer and a founding member of the chapter. Since the early 1980's, Martha has served the entire gay community by working as a volunteer for Caracole House, AVOC, and other organizations. She worked long and hard hours for the passage of the Human Rights Ordinance, attended the March on Washington for Gay Rights, and handed out condoms in the gay bars of Cincinnati to help curb the spread of AIDS.

PFLAG would like to acknowledge Gene Sell and all his efforts for this very worthy cause. Thank you Gene!!!

SNAPSHOT OF 2005 CINCINNATI PFLAG – Celebrating 20 Years!!!

Many of you may be curious about what kind of activities PFLAG supports throughout the year and how our chapter has used your financial support. The following is a snapshot of some of the highlights of 2005.

NEWSLETTERS – Tim Gross, our newsletter editor, has updated our software using MS Publisher in order to give the newsletter a professional appearance. In addition, he is using Adobe Acrobat to create a PDF file so the newsletter can be easily placed on our website. Many of you read about the history of PFLAG through the eyes of our past presidents – a special feature throughout this anniversary year. Some other special added features include "Cooking With Tim" and articles by the very talented, Jane Biddinger.

HOTLINE – Marie Jenkins reports that in the six months since she has taken over the hotline she has received over 34 calls. Many were traditional calls for support; some were requests for speakers, written material or other information, a few were requests for help with school projects. Hotline calls are forwarded to Marie from the United Way.

EMAIL - Coordinator Tom Jenkins reports that the email hotline received over 50 requests during 2004/2005. These requests include queries regarding support services, meeting information, speaker or literature information, research projects, and scholarship information. Our Email list currently has approximately 194 members. Tom manages to keep our email messages to a maximum of three per week.

WEBMASTER – Tom Jenkins updated our monthly meeting announcements, posted 2005 scholarship applications and the deadline, posted banquet information and invitations.

LIBRARY – Kathy Alexander reports that donated and new books have been added to our library. Her duties include updating the lists of books, stamping new materials added to the library and replacing worn out books.



SNAPSHOT OF 2005 CINCINNATI PFLAG –
Celebrating 20 Years!!!
Continued

MEMBERSHIP – Chairperson Tom Jenkins reports that he is updating our membership list, but as of August 2005 we are reported to have 65 paid members of our chapter. He also reports that our database currently includes 598 in the individual file and 289 in the organization file for a total of 887 entries. Tom is constantly monitoring and updating both our database and our membership list.

SPEAKERS BUREAU –Members of our Speakers Bureau were very active during the year and made appearances at the following:

- Step Up Against Discrimination Club at Scott High School in Taylor Mill
- LGBTQ Visibility Week sponsored by the Women's Center at UC
- EPA Breidenbach Environmental Research Center – Pride Event
- Butler County MRDD employees meeting
- Two Women's Studies Classes at NKU

PROGRAMS - Our monthly programs included:

- Transgender Program presented by Diane Torrance
- Log Cabin Republicans Organization
- Movie Night – Silent Film - "Different From The Others"

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES / SUPPORT/ ADVOCACY –

- ISQCCBE - Imperial Sovereign Queen City Court of the Buckeye Empire
- Citizens to Restore Fairness – Repeal Article XII Campaign
- 2005 Pride Sponsor – Parade Participation – PFLAG Booth
- Pride Night at Kings Island – Sponsor – PFLAG Booth
- Black Family Reunion – PFLAG Booth
- Adoption Workshop – Sponsor
- GLBT News
- WAIF Radio
- QCCA – Queen City Careers Association
- GLBT Community Center
- MUSE Choir
- Cincinnati Men's Chorus
- AVOC
- Red Ribbon Walk for AVOC
- Queen City Rainbow Band
- GLSEN
- Ohio PFLAG State Conference
- Northern Kentucky Fairness Alliance

LITERATURE – At every monthly meeting, booth presentation and speaker appearance – we provided free literature. This is a very important aspect of our chapter's outreach. We continually update and order new literature brochures.

SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET – "Party Like It's 1985" our 20th Anniversary Celebration in support of our scholarship fund was able award nine \$1,300 scholarships and one Martha Weyand Scholarship of \$1,300.

CONGRATULATIONS CINCINNATI PFLAG FOR AN OUTSTANDING YEAR OF SUPPORT,
EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY!!!

ISQCCBE NEWS!!

- As of October 2005 – Reign XIV – raised a total fund raising balance of \$84,880.05. Congratulations to Empress Roberta Bigg and Emperor Tom Wherry on a fantastic year.
- On September 13, 2005 – PFLAG received a letter from President Jay Rickels announcing, "on behalf of Empress Roberta Bigg and Emperor Tom Wherry and the General Membership, please find enclosed a check in the amount of \$421.00," to benefit KATRINA Relief.
- And as if that was not enough – also on September 13th, PFLAG received a letter from the ISQCCBE on behalf of Miss Sylvia, (then candidate and now Empress XV) in the amount of \$250.00 to benefit PFLAG. Thank you Miss Sylvia and congratulations on your election to Empress XV.
- PFLAG was also notified that we will be a designated charity of the ISQCCBE for 2006. Thank You!!!



PAST NEWSLETTERS

With the end of the year coming upon us and it a fabulous 20th anniversary celebration the Cincinnati PFLAG Chapter of PFLAG is going to be working on putting together a historical scrapbook of our history. As part of this, we would like to obtain copies of all the past newsletters. Below is a list of the newsletters we have been able to obtain but if you have copies that we could get or borrow to make copies of newsletters that are not on this list please contact me at 513-826-4341 or at pflagtim@yahoo.com. If they're ones that you want to keep we will make the copies and return them to you. Also, if you know when we published our first newsletter could you please respond so I know where to start. Thank you June and Harold for your assistance with most of what we have been able to gather thus far.

These are the newsletter that we currently have:		Winter
1995 November/December	2002	Spring Summer Fall
1996 January/February May/June July/August/September December/January	2003	Spring Summer Fall
1997 February/March July/August/September October/November/ December	2004	Winter/Spring Summer Fall
1998 July/August/September October/November/December	2005	Winter Spring Summer
1999 January/February/March November/December		
2000 January/February/March April/May/June July/August/September October/November/December		
2001 January/February/March Autumn		



Cincinnati PFLAG Helps Katrina Victims

At our September meeting PFLAG Cincinnati opened their hearts and checkbooks to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina by taking donations that was passed to AVOC who in turn passed the money along to Louisiana AIDS Advocacy Network (LAAN). According to the AVOC web site [AVOC has] "arranged with LAAN to use our dedicated donations to provide life saving resources to the people of New Orleans who are living with HIV/AIDS during this des-

perate time. The funds will be distributed throughout the affected area to assist with medication, food, housing, transportation, and other basic needs to support their HIV care". We were able to collect \$165 and the Chapter matched up to \$100 so we were able to help out Katrina victims with \$265. We would like to thank everyone who donated

WALKING THE WALK
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I was touched by the presence of the groups from the local Catholic high schools. Being Catholic myself, I found hope for the future of a church divided on the issue of homosexuality, so often dovetailed with AIDS. A groundswell, I hope, for change in our church. A sign that the wisdom and life experiences of our people may one day be shared by the hierarchy.

We plodded along and soon came upon a line of smiling faces cheering us and offering fruit and water. They told us we were more than a quarter of the way there. I suggested they round it up. They told the next group that they were nearly halfway home.

We passed into Northern Kentucky and Newport where another walk was getting underway. The Buddy Walk. A walk for Down's syndrome. I saw a mother pushing a child in a stroller. Her son. Her son born with this affliction. A son who would be unable to live the dreams she held when she carried him beneath her heart. But she walked on. Determined and strong. Walking so that other mothers may not experience her pain. Just as June Delph was doing. Just as we all were.

We maintained our middle-of-the-pack position. As we headed back downtown I looked ahead and then back over my shoulder. I was member of a forward-marching legion that spanned a bridge and extended into two states. I realized that fundraising, while so vital to the cause, is not the sole purpose of this walk. There are others. Visibility. Awareness. Support. With each and every step we brought AIDS into the light of day. Into the heart of our city. Into the faces of passersby. Through the media, we brought AIDS awareness to the suburbs via newspapers and TV. We were

crusaders for those awaiting a cure and a rallying force for those giving care.

The lure of lunch and promise of a bench provided the only additional inspiration we needed to hoof the last mile or so. We crossed the finish line, a new experience for us. We found our way to the food line where we were experienced veterans. We congratulated one another, and compared sore feet and leg cramps as we ate hot dogs and chips. While we munched, numbers were crunched and grand total was announced. \$130,000.00! The crowd cheered.

Our team disbanded and we went our separate ways. We'd see June and Harold at PFLAG next month. PFLAG. Where we met June and Harold. Where we mothers talk about the fear we hope never to face. Where last month I talked with a mother just three weeks into knowing that her son is gay. "Your biggest fear?" I asked. "That I'll outlive my son," she replied.

The week after the walk we received a note of thanks from June. Our team had raised \$1,113.00. She enclosed a photo of our team. Eight of us in white shirts with red ribbons. All smiling, fresh and ready for the walk. I keep an assortment of snapshots on a family room table. A mother's collection. Moments I want to remember. Birthdays, baptisms, picnics. I framed our team photo and added it to my group. I tucked it between one of our son and his partner and one of our grandson and his sister. A reminder of the walk. A reminder of the cause. A reminder to walk again next year. And the next. For as long as it takes.

—The Delph Team—

Front Row

June Delph, Jane Biddinger and Linda Arnest

Middle Row

Tim Gross, Cory Johnson and David Maschinot

Back Row

Harold Delph, and Bill Biddinger

Photos Courtesy of June Delph





2005/2006 Officers & Chairpersons/Board Members

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General Membership Application

Check below for: New, Renewal, Change of Address. Membership Type: Individual (\$25), Household (\$35), Supporting (\$50), Contributing (\$100), Sponsoring (\$500), Lifetime (\$1000), Other (\$). Comments: []