

2 1 J U L Y 2 0 1 3

# PFLAG<sup>of</sup> Door County

5-6:30PM THE 3RD SUNDAY AT HOPE CHURCH, STURGEON BAY



Advocacy, education and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, their families and friends.



Thanks for all the support at the Baileys Harbor 4th of July Parade!

## PFLAG DC UPCOMING EVENTS

*July*

Farmers Market, Every Saturday morning 9am to 12 noon. Volunteers needed.

July 21st 5pm PFLAG meeting at Hope Church on 12th Ave and Michigan St

*August*

Farmers Market, Every Saturday morning 9am to 12 noon. Volunteers needed.

August 11th at 1pm PFLAG DC Annual Picnic, Sunset Park, near the shipyards, Sturgeon Bay

August 18th 5pm PFLAG meeting at Hope Church on 12th Ave and Michigan St

*September*

August 21st at 4 p.m. Commit with Pride. Ceremony will be at the Stone Harbor Resort at the water front and performed by Rev. Richard Feyen, Pastor of Sturgeon Bay's Hope United Church of Christ.

<http://www.doorcounty.com/commit/>



## STURGEON BAY PFLAG ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunset Park

August 11, 2013, 1pm to 3pm

300 Third Avenue, Sturgeon Bay, WI

Bring a dish to pass, your own drink. Grill will be provided for your choice of meat which you plan to bring.

We will be playing Bocci. For more information call Richard (920) 746-0981

---

### PFLAG Supports Door County Same-Sex Commitment Ceremony; An 'Extravagant Welcome to the LGBT Community,' Says Feyen

PFLAG – Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays – of Door County gives “two thumbs up” to a mass commitment ceremony to be conducted for same-sex couples by the Rev. Richard Feyen, pastor of Sturgeon Bay’s Hope United Church of Christ, on Saturday, September 21, at Stone Harbor Resort on the waterfront.

It’s projected that 250 couples will participate in the ceremony, centerpiece of “Commit with Pride,” a weekend of events scheduled for September 20-22<sup>nd</sup> throughout Sturgeon Bay and Door County.

“Unlike some of our neighboring states where marriage equality is now the law, Wisconsin has enshrined prejudice and second-class citizenship to LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) people in its state constitution,” said Richard Gardiner, president of the local PFLAG chapter. “Support for marriage equality, however, is rapidly growing across the country, as confirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court’s rulings released on Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.

While Wisconsin voters enacted a constitutional ban on both same-sex marriage and civil unions in 2006, the state does support bonafide domestic partnerships.

Gardiner is encouraging all PFLAG members to join in the festivities along with the committed couples, their families and friends.

“All the colors of the rainbow will be on display in Door County this autumn,” noted the Wisconsin Gazette. In addition to the spectacular display of fall foliage that makes Door County such a popular tourist destination, the “historic mass commitment ceremony” is predicted to attract thousands of visitors.

Door County tourism officials agree that the purpose of the event is to celebrate the spectacular colors of the season by appealing to a popular market niche and “doing something that’s supportive of that niche.”

In a press release announcing the event, Door County Visitors Bureau President and CEO Jack Moneyppenny said that his group “believes this promotion is socially responsible and [it] makes good business sense.”



The new promotion comes on the heels of successful advertising campaigns to the LGBT travel market over the past few years and “creates a place for loving couples to publicly commit to one another,” said Moneyppenny.

For his part, Rev. Feyen adds, “I am thrilled with the opportunity to serve a segment of our population that has been ignored, bullied, and rejected by the church in general ... and see this as an opportunity to reach out with an extravagant welcome to the LGBT community.”

His only regret, he says, is that “it cannot truly be a marriage ceremony.”

Given the rulings just released by the U.S. Supreme Court, however, it looks like it will only be a matter of time before marriage equality replaces such “substitute” or “token” marriages as civil unions and domestic partnerships for all people.

Feyen emphasizes that his church currently welcomes all people.

“While many churches say they welcome all people, Hope United Church of Christ is the only church in Sturgeon Bay that affirms as a witness statement to the broader community the presence of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender individuals as people equal to everyone else.”

An evening rehearsal at Stone Harbor will kick off the weekend’s events at 6 pm on Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Following Saturday’s 4 pm ceremony will be a cake and champagne/punch reception. An optional hors d’oeuvre dinner is also scheduled at the resort, along with a cash bar reception, music and dancing.

Limited to the first 250 couples who register for the event, participants will receive complimentary flowers [from?], a commitment certificate signed by Rev. Feyen, a \$25 Door County gift certificate, and a bottle of champagne.

More information and registration forms are online at [DoorCounty.com/Commit](http://DoorCounty.com/Commit).

Special “Commit with Pride” weekend getaway packages are being offered by a number of lodging properties around the county. Area attractions, restaurants, and retailers also have put together special offerings for participating couples.

## STAY CONNECTED

To stay updated on the latest news and actions from PFLAG National, be sure to:

Stay current with PFLAG National by visiting [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org).

Keep in touch with PFLAG National on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/pflag](http://www.facebook.com/pflag).

Follow PFLAG National on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/#!/PFLAG>.

Check out recent posts on our PFLAG National blog at <http://blog.pflag.org/>.

Watch PFLAG National on our YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/pflagnational>.

## Calendar of Meetings and Other Events

---

### Appleton

#### **PFLAG of Appleton**

PFLAG of Appleton meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Appleton Harmony Café, 233 College Avenue at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please email: [pflagappleton@gmail.com](mailto:pflagappleton@gmail.com).

#### **Valued Families**

(Support Group for LGBTQ parents with children)

Note: this group disbanded in late 2010. If anyone would like more information about this group or similar groups in the area, please call Jesse Heffernan, 920-734-CAFÉ (2233).

#### **Spectrum**

(LGBTQ and allied social group 18 years and up) Spectrum meets Mondays from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Harmony Café--Fox Valley, 233 East College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911, 920-734-2233.

[See also under Green Bay below]

#### **GBLT Partnership**

(Offers leadership development and support for teens ages 14-18)

GBLT Partnership meets weekly on Tuesdays from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Harmony Café--Fox Valley, 233 College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911. Tel. 920-734-2233.

[See also under Green Bay below]

### Door County

#### **PFLAG Door County**

PFLAG Door County meets on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 5:00 p.m. at the Hope UCC Church, 12th and Michigan, Sturgeon Bay. For more information:

[www.pflagdoorcounty.org](http://www.pflagdoorcounty.org) or [richardgardiner2001@gmail.com](mailto:richardgardiner2001@gmail.com)

920-421-8815

# Calendar of Meetings and Other Events

## Green Bay

### Conversation Cafe

The following happens at the Harmony Café (West Mason Street (next to Toys R Us)): Conversation Café takes place every Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., hosted by Cricket. For a complete list of the services provided by the Harmony Café, click on the following link: [www.focol.org/harmonycafe/](http://www.focol.org/harmonycafe/)

### The Green Bay Transgender Group

(The Green Bay Transgender group meets on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Harmony Café.

### Spectrum

(LGBTQ and allied social group 18 years and up) Spectrum meets Tuesdays from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Harmony Café, Green Bay, 1660 West Mason Street, Green Bay, WI 54303. Tel. 920-569-1593. [See also under Appleton above.]

### Manitowoc

#### PFLAG Manitowoc County

PFLAG Manitowoc County meets the 1st Thursday of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the St. James Church, 434 N. 8th St. [pflagmanty@gmail.com](mailto:pflagmanty@gmail.com) 920-629-3771

### GBLT Partnership

GBLT Partnership (Offers leadership development and support for teens ages 14-18)

GBLT Partnership meets weekly on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Harmony Café-Green Bay, 1660 West Mason Street, Green Bay, WI 54303. Tel. 920-569-1593.

[See also under Appleton above.]

### LaCrosse

#### PFLAG LaCrosse

PFLAG LaCrosse meets every Tuesday starting at 6:30 p.m. at the LGBT Resource Center of the 7 Rivers Region. [www.7riverslgbt.org](http://www.7riverslgbt.org)

### Adult-Gay/ Straight Alliance of Green Bay

A-GSA, Adult Gay/Straight Alliance of Green Bay, is a new advocacy group located

in Green Bay for families and friends of persons who identify as GLBT.

A-GSA provides opportunities for dialogue about topics related to sexual orientation. All sessions are respectful, nonjudgmental, and strictly confidential. A-GSA charges no fees. All are welcome.

Meetings are 6:00-8:00pm, second Tuesday of the month (September through May)

"The English Room" at the Union Congregational United Church of Christ

716 S. Madison St. Green Bay, WI 54301

Contacts: Michele Becker, 920-432-1283 or John and Karen Wirch 920-434-9960.

# Calendar of Meetings and Other Events

## Madison

### PFLAG Madison

#### Straight Spouse Group

PFLAG Madison meets the 3rd Sunday every month except June, July and August, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. The Straight Spouse Group meets at 4:00 p.m., immediately following the PFLAG Group meeting. See [www.pflag-madison.org](http://www.pflag-madison.org) for directions and agenda topics.

## Point

### PFLAG Point

PFLAG Point meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. No permanent meeting place has been determined. Link on the following for more information: [www.pflagpoint.com](http://www.pflagpoint.com) or phone 715-572-6922.

## Milwaukee

### PFLAG Milwaukee

PFLAG Milwaukee meets on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 5:00 p.m. at the Martin Luther Church in Milwaukee. See the following for more information: [www.milwaukee-pflag.org](http://www.milwaukee-pflag.org).

## Oshkosh

### PFLAG of Greater Oshkosh

Will not meet for the months of June, July and August, 2013. For support please see the Appleton PFLAG meeting. Contact information: [pflagoshkosh@gmail.com](mailto:pflagoshkosh@gmail.com).

## Washburn

### PFLAG Washburn

PFLAG Washburn meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. on the lower level of the Washburn Public Library, 307 Washington Avenue, Washburn. For further information, please call 715-209-1100.

## Newsletter Contact Information:

PFLAG Sturgeon Bay/Door County  
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235  
920-421-8875

Website: [www.pflagdoorcounty.org](http://www.pflagdoorcounty.org).

E-mail: [pflag@doorcounty.com](mailto:pflag@doorcounty.com)

Also find us on Facebook: PFLAG Door County

Editor/Secretary: Beth Mitchell

[pflag@elizabethmitchell.name](mailto:pflag@elizabethmitchell.name)

If you would like to be removed from the PFLAG e-mail list, please let us know by replying to this e-mail and we will remove your address.