

PFLAG Madison

Voice-Mail: 608-848-2333

Email: pflagmadison@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.pflag-madison.org>

Meeting Place:

Friends Meeting House, 1704 Roberts Court, Madison, WI

Meeting: 2:00 to 4:00 PM, 3rd Sunday of the month, Sept. to May

National PFLAG Website: <http://www.pflag.org>



**Parents, Families, Friends and Allies United with LGBTQ
People to move equality forward**

Support

Education

Advocacy

President: Lora Schmid-Dolan

President-Elect: Susie Murray

Past President: Jeanne Williams

Treasurer: Susie Murray

Board Members: Karen Baker, Joanne Lee, Sandy Feria, Anne Urbanski, and Joann Elder and Frank Roub (emeriti)

NEXT MEETING – November 20

November meeting speaker: Sherie Hohs, LGBTQ+ Social Worker for Madison Metropolitan School District, will talk about LGBTQ elementary students & Welcoming Schools.

October Meeting Summary - Lora Schmid-Dolan

Verona schools Board of Education approved a transgender policy at its board meeting on Monday, October 10, 2016. With strong administrative support from superintendent Dean Gorrell, the approval comes more than a year after an ad hoc committee of board members, parents, community members and students began to discuss a topic that has caused controversy and confusion nationwide.

The policy governs much beyond bathrooms and locker rooms, outlining student privacy and confidentiality issues, participation in sports and dress codes.

The board also looked at a draft of policies and procedures for staff to follow that will help ensure consistency among the school sites in their response to transgender students. That's likely to be approved later this fall.

Gorrell cautioned that administrators would need time to train staff on the new policy and how to work with transgender students using the support plan, and asked that board members expect it to be implemented "no sooner" than second semester this year.

Transgender Awareness Month / Transgender Day of Remembrance - from *PFLAG Voice*

Awareness of issues relating to our transgender loved ones are always top of mind at PFLAG. It's been this way for decades, since PFLAG became one of the first national organizations to include people who are transgender in its mission, has continued through the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) battle in 2007, and continues now, as we work to gain equal access to facilities--and fair and respectful treatment--for our trans and gender-expansive loved ones. Transgender Awareness Month gives PFLAGers everywhere the opportunity to elevate PFLAG's unwavering commitment to the trans community. We offer [resources for families](#) and [resources for allies](#), and [our policy positions on all relevant issues](#) remain stead-

fast, inclusive, and clear: PFLAG will leave no member of our family behind. We have a full month--including Transgender Day of Remembrance (see below)--to raise that message up for all to see and hear.

Each November, the world honors the [International Transgender Day of Remembrance \(TDOR\)](#), which was inspired by the murder on Nov. 28th, 1998 of [Rita Hester](#). Now in its 18th year, TDOR marks a day in late November when communities around the globe commemorate trans people who died during the past year due to anti-trans violence or prejudice because of actual or perceived gender identity or expression. 2016 has been the deadliest year in the U.S. to date for people who are transgender, and this is a time for allies and families to speak out against this violence, and in favor of equal rights--and basic respect and dignity--for transgender people. For more information on trans resources from PFLAG National, please visit www.pflag.org/trans or straightforequality.org/trans.

PFLAG National leader, Jody Huckaby, stepping down as Executive Director

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Jean Hodges, Chair of the PFLAG National Board of Directors, announced that Executive Director Jody Huckaby will depart the helm of the organization in December after serving in this role since January 2005.

“Jody Huckaby has offered game-changing leadership to position PFLAG as our nation’s unique and unified voice of families, allies, and people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ). He leaves a monumental legacy that makes the entire PFLAG family very proud,” said Hodges.

Hodges announced that Elizabeth Kohm, currently Chief Operating Officer, has been appointed interim Executive Director. Kohm joined PFLAG in 2011 with an executive background in partnerships, social advocacy and field operations. The Board of Directors expressed high confidence that Kohm will provide strong leadership during the transition.

Web Site Usage - Jim Whitney

We get web site usage information from our ISP each month. In October the most frequently accessed page was our [Resource List](#). Other frequently accessed pages are *About Us*, *Meetings*, and the *Newsletter* page. The actual October newsletter received just seven accesses. Credit for that small number probably goes to our extensive newsletter e-mail list.

* * * * *

PLEASE NOTE: If you are viewing the printed version of this newsletter, check the on-line version at <http://www.pflag-madison.org/newsletters/2016/Nov16NL.pdf> to easily follow the links that are mentioned in the news items.

* * * * *

Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in.

~ [Leonard Cohen](#) (1934 - 2016)