



The official newsletter of Parents & Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays

Spring 2010



Prayer, Policy and Action: the right answers to our cultural battles

There are times in our lives where we either take action or give up our rights to hold different beliefs. If we remain silent then we must accept responsibility for the outcome. PFOX has opposed legislation and organizations that seek to deny ex-gay equality, endanger children, or provide a message of hope—all without sacrificing our ability to reach out. If we fail to defend ourselves, the right to self-determination and equality for all will never happen.

PFOX supports families and the ex-gay community, provides fact-based information, and upholds the truth that changing sexual orientation is possible. PFOX is publically addressing issues affecting today's youth and families. PFOX works on cultural issues facing today's families. Taking our concerns public, we are standing up and taking action, if necessary using the courts to gain equality. Students and families support equal access. They want to hear both sides; they want people to know that homosexuality and gender identity is not immutable—change is possible.

PFOX Board member Christopher Doyle is an ex-gay man who has spoken about his life at Gay Straight Alliances (GSA) meetings. As such, PFOX believed Chris was the right person to correspond with the National PTA about PFOX's application to host a booth at the June 10 to 13, 2010, National PTA Conference at the Memphis Cook Convention Center in Tennessee.

As an ex-gay, Chris could answer questions posed by the PTA about PFOX and ex-gays. For eight months, Chris emailed and called them. We complied with all requests from the PTA. PFOX reapplied and sent copies of brochures we wanted to display. As time went on, so did

their excuses and put offs.

For over five years the National PTA denied PFOX a booth, while anti-ex-gay organizations like Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) that promote hatred toward the ex-gay community hosted booths and sessions. But ex-gays need not apply.

Prior to becoming president of the PTA in 2009, Charles Saylor served on the National PTA Board for five years. PFOX first contacted Saylor in 2005.

According to the PTA Website, Saylor, a Southern Baptist, attends Forestville Baptist Church in South Carolina. PFOX thought that as a Christian, Saylor would support equality and equal access for ex-gay men and women to provide fact-based information, and support for students, but our phone calls and emails went unanswered even back then.

PFOX corresponded with the PTA since October 2009, and after months of put-offs and refusal to reply to our request for a booth at the 2010 conference, I (PFOX Executive Director Regina Griggs) decided to contact Saylor.

Saylor works at M.B.Kahn in Columbia S.C., which advertises that Saylor works for them and boasts that he is the first man to become the National PTA President. I called Saylor at work and was told he was out of the office, so I left a message asking for a return phone call. Saylor chose not to return my call and speak with PFOX. Instead two days later he sent us an impersonal email rejecting PFOX and our message of hope, accusing us of not meeting their diversity policy.

The PTA claims we do not meet their diversity policy, which one, how about naming it? Saylor can be contacted at

csaylors@mbkahn.com or csaylors@pta.org. Ask why he refuses to support and recognize ex-gays as part of the PTA's diversity policy. Suggest Mr.Saylor and the PTA Board read the Washington, D.C. Court Case about ex-gays and sexual orientation, found at <http://pfox.org/Court-Rules-Sexual-Orientation-Laws-Include-Former-Homosexuals.html>.

Families like yours are not welcomed by the PTA, which is sanctioning ex-gay hate and discrimination. Find out what your local and state PTAs are endorsing. Don't allow your donations to fund hate and discrimination against the ex-gay community. Take back the PTA or consider starting a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)—they don't push a one-sided diversity policy.

Note: Please read Saylor's letter and the National PTA Diversity and Inclusion Policy in their entirety starting below.

PTA Letter

May 7, 2010
Regina Griggs
Executive Director, PFOX
P.O. Box 510

*See 'PTA'
continued on page 4*

In This Issue:

PTA	1
Farwell to Tank	2
Quinlan Speech to PepsiCo ..	3
Upcoming Events	4
Prayer List.....	4

Farewell to Tank

Many of you have seen pictures of my dogs King and Tank in my newsletters and I am sure some have wondered why. It is because I have a second volunteer job -- I am the Adoption Officer for the Northern Neck Humane Society of Virginia. Like children, animals are often the victims of abuse and neglect, and the public sadly looks the other way. Many of our elected officials fail to enforce the laws to protect them.

I currently own two rescue dogs that came from abusive backgrounds I wanted to make a difference, helping find homes or shelter for those who could not help themselves. My PFOX advocacy work helped prepare me and gave me the courage to get involved and take a stand. Yes, there are times I go to court and stand up for those who cannot be there to represent themselves.

Tank's a 95-pound Labrador we adopted six years ago. Tank had heartworm disease, was full of buck shot, and had two fractured hips as the victim of a hit-and-run driver.

Tank needed help and deserved more from life than what he had experienced in his first three years, so we brought him home. Tank became a great part of our lives, waking us when the coffee pot clicked on, body blocking us if we tried to shorten his walk, barking when it was time for his pills and treats. He had a routine and made sure we followed it. Tank followed me everywhere. He was always happy just to be with you.

Easter is a time to rejoice, not to be sitting in a veterinary emergency hospital at 3:30 am with my dog. Saturday morning, Tank was okay. By 4 pm Saturday night, he lost the use of his back legs. An MRI two days later found a malignant spinal tumor.

Tank was a trooper. Diagnosed with bone cancer nine months before, he went through cancer treatment and lived those nine months with no sign of new cancer. We thought he'd beaten the odds.

After three days in the hospital, Tank became unhappy there and whimpered whenever I came to visit, so I decided to take him home. We live three hours from the veterinary emergency hospital. My husband was out of the country but our son lived close to the hospital and I could stay at his house. This was not an easy decision, yet I needed a place to stay until I could Tank back home to his surroundings and let my husband see him before he was put down.

Tank and I spent four nights at my son's home, Neither my son nor his friend supported my decision; they thought Tank should be put down immediately,



Tank glad to be home.

so we spoke very little during my stay.

My time with Tank was peaceful. I was able to help him get outside. He had a great appetite and was not in pain. Tank was happy, his health improved. But not the use of his back legs.

It was a long week and now we could make the 4-hour trip home with my husband was there to greet us. I was glad to be home and see my husband; Tank was home and reunited with his buddy King. But I was not ready to accept what lay ahead.

The decision to put Tank to sleep was not easy. We talked about options, what was best for Tank, and spoke with our vet, who understood and was willing to come to our home when we were ready to say goodbye. Our vet is a Christian, there are tracts in the waiting room, pictures of Jesus the healer on the walls and scripture versus on all of their paper work which says: **Proverbs 12:10 'A good man takes care of his animals, but wicked men are cruel to theirs.'**

Tank would not have to leave home or be frightened, he would spend his last minutes with us.

Saturday night we camped out on the floor all night next to Tank. King our 12-year-old cuddled next to Tank all night. He knew Tank was ill and wanted to comfort him.

We decided to put Tank to sleep Sunday afternoon. We did not want to risk him experiencing any sudden changes that could occur. I didn't want Tank to become depressed. His inability to use his hind legs would ultimately affect him, he loved his daily walks and swims in the bay, and there would be no more of those days.

Tank was a proud dog. Sunday, Tank ate his breakfast, vitamins, Greenies and then we took him outdoors for the rest of the day. We spent the day outdoors in the front yard, one of his favorite places to spend an afternoon. He felt good, and was enjoying his yard and the beautiful spring day.

I am still not sure how I made it through the day. I kept thinking to myself this is his last day; in a few hours he will be gone.

When the vet arrived she did not rush us, Tank was given a sedative and slowly fell asleep in my arms. We said our goodbyes; after several minutes and when my husband and I were ready, the drug that stopped his heart was administered.

Tank crossed the Rainbow Bridge. Some day we will be reunited. I miss Tank every day, yet I know he is now free to run again. His love for us was a gift we will always cherish.



Tank says goodbye.

PFOX President Greg Quinlan speech to PepsiCo Board May 5 at Pepsi Shareholders Meeting

Ms. Indra Nooyi [PepsiCo chair], last year at this same event, you said that PepsiCo is “committed to diversity and inclusion without imposition of personal judgment.” So why does PepsiCo continue to fund organizations that hate ex-gays like me?

PepsiCo, Inc. is the leading corporate sponsor of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, known as PFLAG. PFLAG’s latest publication, a religious guidebook, instructs its members to protest against religious conferences which feature ex-gay speakers like me. PFLAG’s religious guidebook even directs members on how to create picket signs for these protests. It also urges members to hold press conferences and issue press releases against ex-gay religious events “to remind people that there is more than one faith message.”

My church welcomes the ex-gay community. Why does Pepsi fund groups like PFLAG that disrupt Christian events which support former homosexuals like me? Why does PepsiCo fund an organization like PFLAG which issues religious publications urging readers to undermine other religions with which PFLAG disagrees? Why does Pepsi fund hate? Why?

Unlike the Coca Cola Company, PepsiCo refuses to divulge the exact amount of money it donates to various groups. This secrecy by PepsiCo leads to misuse of corporate funds. For example, PepsiCo says it gave ‘over \$100,000’ last year to PFLAG, but refuses to specify the exact amount. In past years that amount has meant as much as half a million dollars. This means that Pepsi may be giving away \$500,000 or more in corporate earnings to a controversial organization to help fund its religious viewpoint. Pepsi helps fund religious bigotry and hatred.

The Coca Cola Company lists the exact amounts of its corporate donations. Pepsi should do the same. Why is PepsiCo hiding this information? In the era of Bernie Madoff, Enron, bank failures and the like, Pepsi must be accountable; Pepsi must be transparent to her shareholders and

customers. But you are not.

PepsiCo is listed on the PFLAG website as a founding sponsor of PFLAG’s so-called “Straight for Equality” program. This program is aimed at heterosexuals. It gives heterosexuals a list of 10 things they can do to be what they call, a “straight ally,” in their church.

This PepsiCo funded program also

“

PepsiCosaysitgave‘over\$100,000’ last year to PFLAG, but refuses to specify the exact amount. In past years that amount has meant as much as half a million dollars. This means that Pepsi may be giving away \$500,000 or more in corporate earnings to a controversial organization to help fund its religious viewpoint. Pepsi helps fund religious bigotry and hatred.

Greg Quinlan, PFOX President

”

publishes a “Straight for Equality in Healthcare” manual for heterosexual doctors and nurses. This PFLAG manual misquotes medical associations in an attempt to discredit the ex-gay community. The manual also labels our lives as “snake oil” and “deceitful.” It makes a list of groups to avoid, called “Meet the Snake Oil Salesman.” Three ex-gay groups are listed. One of them is Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays and Gays, PFOX. My name is Gregory Quinlan; I am the President of PFOX. I am an Ex-Gay man.

Madame Chair and Board of Directors, I can tell you that almost everything said about PFOX on p. A-29 of your PepsiCo

funded manual is a lie. Why would you donate even one dollar to spread this kind of hate against people like me? I’m asking you here and now to correct these lies about PFOX on PepsiCo’s website so you can immediately undo some of the damage you have paid for.

Ms. Nooyi, you lead PepsiCo’s Diversity and Inclusion Governance Council. I don’t want to hear any more words from you about diversity and inclusion -- I want you to actually practice it. [Applause]

As for Peggy Moore, who represents PepsiCo on the PFLAG Board Workplace Diversity Committee, she should be fired because she doesn’t know the first thing about diversity if she can’t respect people like me. And PepsiCo should resign immediately from PFLAG’s so-called Diversity Committee. Why would PepsiCo sit on a committee that defines diversity to only include those people whose religious ideology they agree with?

Ms. Nooyi and PepsiCo Board of Directors do you make these decisions because of replicated scientific studies supporting specific biological etiology for homosexuality? I can answer that for you. You can’t because there is zero evidence. ZERO that anyone is born homosexual.

Once again, I urge the PepsiCo Board of Directors, yes; each and every one of you, to do your jobs and hold PepsiCo to the ideals and standards it claims to follow. I shouldn’t have to come here year after year asking PepsiCo to stop funding hate against people like me.

The PepsiCo Charitable Contributions Shareholder Proposal asks PepsiCo to fully divulge its funding to groups and account for how the company’s charitable contributions are actually used, a reasonable request. Otherwise, PepsiCo’s actions will adversely affect its public image and goodwill.

Thank you. [Applause]

Listen to the speech at http://pfox.org/Pepsico_5-6-10.mp3

See it online at <http://pfox-exgays.blogspot.com/2010/05/indra-nooyi-and-pepsi.html>

Upcoming Events

WifeBoat Online Support Group meets online in a 12-week program May 18-August 10. WifeBoat Online Support groups is a confidential setting where women from all over the country have felt the relief of being able to

talk with others and receive support, encouragement and insight after finding their husbands using pornography, having an affair or feeling homosexual attractions. For more information, visit <http://www.WifeBoat.com>

Current address

Please note our address: PFOX, PO Box 510, Reedville VA 22539. You can also reach us by telephone at 804-453-4737. Thank you.

PTA continued from page 1

Reedville, VA 22539
Dear Ms. Griggs:

We received your application to exhibit at the 114th Annual PTA Convention and Exhibition Convention.

After careful review of the application and a screen of your organization's mission, goals and objectives, National PTA's Exhibits Screening Committee and Senior Leadership have decided to decline your application

Throughout Exhibitions screening process, we determined that your organization's mission, goals and objectives are not in harmony with National PTA's Diversity and Inclusion Policy, and therefore, do not align with our Association's core values and beliefs. Please see the attached policy for your reference.

Thank you for your interest in exhibiting.

Sincerely,
[Signature]
Charles Saylor
National PTA President
National PTA

Diversity and Inclusion Policy

The National Congress of Mothers, irrespective of creed, color or condition, stands for all parenthood, childhood, homestead.

Alice McLellan Birney, 1898
Cofounder of National PTA

Those words, true in 1898, are even truer today. PTAs everywhere must understand and embrace the uniqueness of all individuals, appreciating that each contributes a diversity of views, experiences, cultural heritage/traditions, skills/abilities, values and preferences. When PTAs respect differences yet acknowledge shared commonalities uniting their communities, and then develop meaningful priorities based upon their knowledge, they genuinely represent their communities. When PTAs represent

their communities, they gain strength and effectiveness through increased volunteer and resource support.

The recognition of diversity within organizations is valuing differences and similarities in people through actions and accountability. These differences and similarities include age, ethnicity, language and culture, economic status, educational background, gender, geographic location, marital status, mental ability, national origin, organizational position and tenure, parental status, physical ability, political philosophy, race, religion, sexual orientation, and work experience.

Therefore PTAs at every level must:

Openly assess beliefs and practices to assure inclusiveness and guard against discrimination;

Make every effort to create a PTA board and membership that is inclusive and reflective of its community;

Encourage that all PTA activities at the school be planned by a committee which is representative of the population

Foster programs and practices that eliminate bias, prejudice and misunderstanding within their communities;

Become acquainted with the leaders of the many diverse groups in the community and collaborate with them to increase parent, family and community involvement;

Educate its leaders and members to the needs, cultural beliefs, traditions and family structures of the population they serve; and

Propose change wherever discriminatory practices are perceived.

PTA values and appreciates diversity, which enriches and strengthens the structure of our society within our state and nation.

†This policy should be used in its entirety with no portion quoted out of context.

Family and Friends Prayer List

Mary Beth, Tom, Sean, Stan, Christopher, Lucas, Beth, Elaine, Joshua, Benjamin, Hampton, Cheryl, Stacy, Carol, Mattie, Nicole, David, Bob, Rose, Steve, Ronald, James, Madeline, Jesus, Rick, Gary, April, Maureen, Jen, Michael, Eric, Allen, Sara,

Damon, Sam, Matthew, Deborah, Corey, James, Jeffery, Melanie, Stan, Brooke, Lisa, Emily, Tyler, Jim, Chad, Brett, Charles, Brian, Jerome, Pamela, Kelly, Tim, Roger, Gaetano, Christian, Judy, Michael, Monte, Gary, Karen, Hillary, Stephan, Brooke, Terri, Elise, Joseph, Vickie, Tricia, Paul,

Tobby, Sandy, Brian, Larry, Alan, Christian Tom, Delores, Mark, Tara, Angela, Jessica, Dawn, Alicia, Jason, Frank, Paul, Edward, Maria, Mario, Michelle, Connor, Angela, Carl Jr., Marcus, Brandon, Gaylon, Edmond, Kesha, Shannon, Paige, Melissa, Donny, William, Wendall, Leno, Mandy, Andy, E., Erik, Lauren, Chris, Todd, Jayson, Carl III, Steve, Zachary, Kelly, Toby, Cody, Dylan, Wayne, Tom, Jeff, Walt, Cayce, Tim,

David, Charles, Edward, Matt, Marc, Heather, Gary, Bill., John, Jeremy, Jen R, Cindy, Karen, Brian, Shellie, Pattie, Emily, Carrie, Alicia, Michelle, Bruce, Rebecca, Suhmin, Phil, Bryce,

Ethan, Doug, Tom, Nick, Harold, Kent, Glenn, Rob and Heath, Angela, Julia, Wess, Christine, Catherine, Jeremy, Katie, David, Troy, Mike, Lisa, Bruce, James, Mary, Samantha, Victoria and Buddy, Christopher A., Jeramie C., Adam C., Christopher K., Perry N., Eric, Missy, Nathan, Michelle, Joe and Idario.

Donate online at

<http://pfox.org/donate.html>