

President's Letter

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we embark on an exciting month for our community, I want to share some important updates and reflections. I am honored to have served from March through September in an unexpired term and am thrilled to announce that I have been selected and approved to serve a full term from October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025. My commitment is to bring stability and continuity to our organization and Board during this crucial time. I am deeply aware of the responsibility that comes with this role and am dedicated to serving our community with integrity and passion.

Today, October 11th marks the beginning of Tulsa Pride, a celebration that holds immense significance for our community. This year, we are thrilled to host Pride in October for the first time, moving from our traditional June celebration. We hope this change will enhance accessibility for all, creating a more inclusive experience. Let's embrace this new chapter with excitement and engagement!

The festivities kick off this evening at 5 PM at Guthrie Green with Pride in the Park. The Rainbow Run will commence Saturday morning, and the Pride Festival will open at noon and continue through Sunday. Don't miss the Pride Parade, starting at 4 PM on Sunday. This year is extraordinary as we celebrate the 25th Pride Parade in Tulsa, honoring the legacy of the Stonewall riots and the ongoing fight for equality.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to our Pride Chair, Grace Fallon, and Vice-Chair, Scott Dye, along with our dedicated staff, Pride Committee, and volunteers. Your hard work and passion drive this celebration, and we couldn't do it without you! Your dedication is truly appreciated and valued.

I also want to recognize that October 11th is National Coming Out Day. It's a powerful reminder of living authentically and embracing our true selves. Coming out is a profoundly personal journey, and this day encourages individuals to share their stories, fostering understanding and acceptance within our society. As we celebrate, let us honor those who have bravely come out and those still navigating their journey. It's an opportunity for all of us to stand in solidarity, reaffirming our commitment to create a world where everyone can live openly and without fear. Together, we can help ensure that every person feels empowered to express their identity, knowing a loving and inclusive community supports them.

I'd also like to highlight our recent event with Tulsa Valid on September 30th where we engaged with candidates on 2SLGBTQIA+ issues. We heard valuable insights from Karen Gaddis (Senate District 25), Representative Melissa Provenzano (House District 79), and Melissa Bryce (Senate District 39).

Remember that today, October 11th, is the last day to [register to vote](#) for the upcoming November election. Your voice matters, and I encourage everyone to participate actively in our democratic process.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our mission. As we celebrate Pride this weekend, let's come together to honor our past and envision a future where everyone is celebrated for who they are. I urge you all to participate actively in the festivities, connect, and show your pride!

In solidarity and celebration,
Whitney Cipolla