



## INSIDEOUT

Spring, 2007

### The Newsletter of **B**lind, **F**riends, **L**esbian, **G**ay, **B**isexual and **T**ransgender (BFLAG)

BFLAG is affiliated with the American Council of the Blind and is dedicated to facilitating the free exchange of ideas, opinions and information relative to matters of concern to blind people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender

Visit us at [www.BFLAG.org](http://www.BFLAG.org)

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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

By Butch Arnold, President

It is March already and I do not know where the time has gone. BFLAG has progressed quite a bit this year. We now have over 135 members and a new web site. We are working very hard to provide the services sought by our members.

Thanks to our convention committee a schedule of activities is now in place. We start things off on Saturday, June 30th, with a local business men and women's fundraising event and we will have multiple events through Friday July 6th. Several of our activities will take place outside the hotel, in the local Minneapolis area. Some must be booked and paid for in advance, so early registration is advised to insure your participation.

Our members and friends now have the option to register either through BFLAG via our web site [www.bflag.org](http://www.bflag.org) or by phone. Registration through ACB will also be available. Take advantage of a substantial discount by registering directly through BFLAG before June 15th. For the first time, this year, BFLAG will be accepting credit card payments via the www site.

Individual grants are available to assist BFLAG members in getting to the convention. These grants could be in the form of a room in the hotel, convention registration fees or even help with transportation. Any BFLAG member needing such assistance should contact me at 410-254-1972 or via email at, [ButchArnold@bflag.org](mailto:ButchArnold@bflag.org)

We offer a roommate referral service for those interested in sharing room costs during convention. Contact me at the above phone number and email address for more information.

This year we will be electing a new secretary and 3 members-at-large to the board. Elections will be held on Monday, July 2nd during our annual business meeting. The offices of President, Vice President and Treasurer will be elected at the 2008 convention in Orlando.

We need more members to get involved both on the board and as active members of committees. Jason Perry heads the Nominating Committee and I know he is looking for suggestions, volunteers, and of course, nominations. Please give some thought to running for one of these positions; it only takes about 10 hours a month.

Since the inception of the "BFLAG Life Member" program we have inducted 9 "Life Members". My personal goal is to have 20 life members by the

time I leave office in July of 2008. You can get a "Life Membership" for yourself or someone else for the low cost of \$300 and BFLAG will deposit that \$300 in its endowment fund and only make use of the interest it earns. BFLAG is also accepting donations for the endowment fund as well as on-going expenses such as hotel convention space and web site costs.

Pride Parades and Events are coming up before our convention. I know that BFLAG will be well represented in Washington, DC as well as in Baltimore. If you want to organize a group to march under the BFLAG banner in your local PRIDE parade, we can help. We have BFLAG banners to loan and we can assist you to identify local backers who may help meet parade registration fees. Marching is a great way to meet new people and spread the word about BFLAG.

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## DEEPENING CHALLENGE FOR AMERICA'S GAY MEN NEW MOVEMENT LOOKS FOR MORE IDENTITY, RELATIONSHIPS

By Wyatt Buchanan, San Francisco Chronicle, January 8, 2007

Meet the new players in the great American debate about values: Ryan, a 25-year-old newlywed, who is helping other men find husbands; Doug, 50, who is helping gay men in San Francisco create their ideal community; and Chris, 36, whose pursuit of happiness has switched from chasing New York hotties to seeking down-home enlightenment.

They and others across the country are engaging gay men in conversations about their goals and values -- both personal and collective -- and challenging the sense of who gay men are and what makes their community. This introspection is happening as gay men are able to move away from the AIDS crisis, which had demanded their full attention for two decades, and now have the time and energy to look inward, these leaders say.

"A bunch of us went around the city for eight or nine months talking to as many people as we could, asking them what issues are important, what they think of life as gay men, what they think of San Francisco," said Doug Sebesta, who worked in public health and HIV services before he and a few other men started the San Francisco Gay Men's Community Initiative in June 2004. "We kept hearing the same thing over and over again -- basically, that San Francisco sucks."

Sebesta said that as the community emerges from the AIDS epidemic, some gay men in San Francisco have found broken pieces of what used to be. But many have told him it is difficult to meet other gay men outside of sexual encounters or to connect on an emotional or friendship level.

"Over and above, people were saying they really have this longing for a sense of community (and) that they feel everything is fractured, that everybody is paranoid, and nobody is having fun," he said.

The community initiative group has gathered men to talk and hosted forums on hot-button topics like the segregation of HIV-positive from HIV-negative gay men. It offers meetings for older men, younger men, men of different ethnic and racial backgrounds, and men who want to work on building community with all kinds of people. The meetings most often are salon-style conversations on a host of topics.

As these men discuss modern gay life, they confront what a New York City writer sees as the dominant message gay men have received about themselves after coming out.

Author Christopher Lee Nutter said the message was: "You need to be young, you need to be sexually powerful, and you need to be fabulous."

In May, his book "The Way Out," which chronicles his life as he transitions to a spiritually focused thinker from a bartender and player on the New York social scene, was released.

"Gay men are standing in the middle of a tornado, with the pope and the president on one side telling them one thing and 'Will & Grace' and 'Queer Eye' telling them another thing and the gay culture telling them another set of issues," Nutter said. "I think that very tornado is what has directed a lot of men to say, 'OK, who ... am I going to believe? Am I believing Massachusetts, where I can get married? Or Cairo, where they're going to put me in jail? Which one do I believe?' Maybe neither."

Ryan Norbauer, who lives in Massachusetts, said his experience seeking a lover led him to Web sites and personal ads that were more about sex than personality.

"That's not what being gay is about," he said. "Being gay is about loving men, and love is not the most pervasive thing on those publications or Web sites."

Unsatisfied, he created his own dating Web site, Lovetastic.com, where he requires that men be fully clothed in their posted pictures. The site is more MySpace than Manhunt, an Internet hookup site.

Norbauer said gay men in the 1960s and '70s were responding to their exclusion by heterosexual culture, "rejecting that which we could not have, the heteronormative American family values," he said.

"It has made sense that we developed a very sexually focused culture, but I feel like the time for that is over in many ways."

In San Francisco, the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center is planning a series of forums to discuss community values and how to act on them.

"What I want to focus on is what brings us together and what our responsibility is to all these youth who come into San Francisco with no place to go," said Thom Lynch, executive director of the center. "What is our responsibility to gay people in the city who have no food or no job? What is our responsibility to people with drug problems or domestic problems?"

"Organizations take care of a lot of those things, but the sense that we have a responsibility to take care of our community is really important, and we need to keep it in action."

It's not an exercise for the thin-skinned, though. Many gay men are fed up with people who want to tell them how to behave, and they side with the community they know. Norbauer said such men criticize his efforts and Web site as prudish.

When Nutter began questioning the sexual and social freedom of contemporary gay culture, people he knew discouraged him.

"My questioning was really diagnosed as a desire to go back in the closet," he said.

Undeterred, he said he believes being gay has given him an advantage over his heterosexual counterparts.

"I thank God I'm gay," Nutter said. "Being gay, and all of the pain that is associated with it -- that enormous challenge to my identity -- forced me to go inside and start living my life according to what I knew was true and important."

The Independent Gay Forum aims to elevate the discussion of gay issues, at [www.indegayforum.org](http://www.indegayforum.org).

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## TEST YOUR CONDOM IQ

What you don't know--could hurt you

- 1 The best way to put on a condom is?
  - Place it on the head of the penis and unroll it all the way to the base
  - Remove it from the package, unroll it and pull it over the penis
  - Remove it from package, inflate it and pull over the penis like a sock
  - Without even removing it from the packaging
- 2 The proper way to remove a latex condom from its package is?
  - By tearing the packaging in half down the middle
  - By opening it before you need it and placing it on a bedside table just in case
  - By tearing off just the top of the foil package, being careful not to rip the condom by using your teeth
- 3 Next to abstinence, the most effective protection against sexually transmitted diseases is proper condom use. Yet, some people still won't use condoms because?
  - They're too embarrassed to buy them
  - They trust their partner's health and assurances
  - They do not take the risks seriously
  - It's too much effort
- 4 Carrying condoms in your wallet may?
  - Keep you prepared
  - Damage the condoms and the packaging
  - Wear off the expiration date
  - Make you feel really cool

5. The following should never be used as a lubricant with latex condoms?
  - K-Y Jelly
  - Vaseline
  - Water
  - Silicone gel
6. Latex condoms should be stored?
  - In the refrigerator
  - In your wallet
  - In a dry, cool place
  - In a bedside drawer
7. Packaged condoms that are coated with a spermicide are good for approximately?
  - 12 months
  - 3 years
  - 5 years
  - 6 sex partners
8. Packaged condoms are good for approximately?
  - 12 months
  - 3 years
  - 5 years
  - 2 weeks at Club Med
9. The condoms that provide the most protection are made from?
  - Natural animal membranes
  - Latex rubber
  - Silicone-coated linen
  - Polyurethane

#### HOW DID YOU DO? CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

1. The best way to put on a condom is?
  - Place the condom on the head of the penis and roll it gently down the shaft. Do not pull down tightly against the tip of the penis. Leave a reservoir for semen.
2. The proper way to remove a latex condom from its package is?
  - The proper way to remove a condom from its package is to carefully tear off the top of the wrapper without damaging the condom.
3. Next to abstinence, the most effective protection against sexually transmitted diseases is proper condom use. Yet, some people still won't use condoms because?
  - Fifty-eight percent of respondents in a recent poll said they didn't believe they could be infected with HIV.
4. Carrying condoms in your wallet may?
  - Carrying condoms in your wallet will damage them.
5. The following should never be used as a lubricant with latex condoms?
  - Never use Vaseline or other oil-based lubricants, such as those that include petroleum jelly, mineral oil, vegetable oil or cold cream. These can damage latex. Water or silicone-based lubricants are best.

6. Latex condoms should be stored?  
Condoms should never be exposed to extreme heat or cold.
7. Packaged condoms that are coated with a spermicide are good for approximately?  
The shelf life of a properly stored condom coated with spermicide is three years.
8. Packaged condoms are good for approximately?  
The shelf life of a properly stored, properly packaged condom is five years.
9. The condoms that provide the most protection are made from?  
Latex condoms offer the best protection. Natural-membrane condoms, such as lambskin, are porous and may not stop sexually transmitted diseases.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Last year in Jacksonville, I attended the BFLAG mixer. I was very surprised and disappointed that the event was being held in a smoking suite. During my unfortunate short stay at the mixer, I spoke to and overheard others complaining about the smoke filled room. My stay was shortened due to burning eyes and the saturation of my hair and clothing with cigarette smoke.

Please urge BFLAG's convention coordinating committee to only consider non-smoking venues for convention activities. If this cannot be done, members should be notified in advance that events are being held in smoking rooms, so that members can decide whether or not to attend the event.

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## ASK DOTTIE

Dear Dottie:

I am a 49 year old man who has had a couple of lasting relationships and numerous short lived ones. Generally, I've met potential partners either through on-line or telephone personals. The pattern has been, after one or two dates communication would gradually, and sometimes not so gradually dissipate. Recently, I met Reggie. He, unlike many of the others, is very interested in establishing a relationship with me. Aside from my being flattered by Reggie's interest in me, I find him to be attentive, loving, and mature far beyond his 19 years. My friends think that I have lost my mind to be seriously considering becoming involved with someone 30 years my junior. What do you think?

Head over heels in Hartford

Dearest Head-over-heels,

First of all get solidly on your feet and assess the situation soberly. Sure, we're all flattered when a much younger person--in this case someone who could almost be your grandson--is attracted to us and all that youthful, explosive heat is in our bed. Even Dottie's loins quiver at the thought. But, what do you talk about over coffee? Aside from grabbing a meal together, what other activities can you share outside of the bedroom? How is that 30-year gap bridged when you're not having a roll in the hay. Do you like the same music, movies, and books? Do you share the same politics? Don't get me wrong, Hun, Dottie isn't saying a relationship between a 49-year-old and a much younger man can't work. The younger man may be mature for his age. You may be extraordinarily youthful for yours. But 30 years is 30 years and must be factored into your decision about this. After all, couples who are of an age run into problems owing to differences in opinion, philosophy, out look, etc. How much more at risk would a couple who is separated by a 30-year span be.

Derling, you know Dottie wishes you luck, and this may be the "love of your life", and I would never want to do anything that would prevent you from happiness. But, we have to approach this with both feet solidly on the ground. Remember, when you're 60 he'll be 30. Will you be able to keep up?

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## DID YOU KNOW THESE FACTS ABOUT MINNEAPOLIS?

Minneapolis is first in the nation in literacy and second in per capita theaters. It is also known for its orchestra, art museums, and the sculpture garden with the cherry spoon near Loring Park and the Walker Art Center.

Minneapolis is on the Mississippi River where you will find riverboats to ride on and by its banks, interesting walks. Minneapolis is also home to professional sports teams and many restaurants and bars with musical entertainment.

### The Basics:

City of St. Anthony Incorporated March 3, 1855  
Town of Minneapolis Incorporated March 1, 1856  
Minneapolis and St. Anthony merge 1872

### Population:

Minneapolis = 382,618  
Hennepin County = 1,116,200  
Median Household Income (1990 Census) \$25,324  
Median Family Income (Metro Area 2000 Census) \$63,600  
Unemployment Rate (2005) 9,225 4.2%  
Labor Force 206,218



Geography:

Area = 59 Square Miles  
Rank 16th Largest City in the Nation  
Elevation = 824 Feet  
Water 2,324 acres  
Latitude 44° 58' 39" North  
Longitude 93° 15' 56" West

Weather:

Average Temperature in January 12° F Average Temperature in July 72°  
Annual Precipitation 26.5 inches  
Annual Snowfall 40 inches

Streets, Sidewalks, Skyways:

Streets = 1,080 miles  
Parkways = 55 miles  
Alleys = 455 miles  
Bridges = 608  
Skyway walkways = 70  
Miles of connected skyway = 5

Flora and Fauna:

StarState Bird: Loon  
State Fish: Walleye  
State Flower: Pink & White Lady's Slipper  
State Tree: Norway Pine

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## TAXI DRIVERS REFUSE FARES AT MINNEAPOLIS AIRPORT

By Emily Gurnon, Pioneer Press January 17, 2007

"I don't like them to force me to (transport) alcohol, but I have to make a living," said 65-year-old Sameh Elmasrey of St. Paul, an Egyptian émigré who has been driving a cab for about 20 years. "I don't like them to force me to (transport) alcohol, but I have to make a living," said 65-year-old Sameh Elmasrey of St. Paul, an Egyptian émigré who has been driving a cab for about 20 years.

For the airport, it's about customer service. For taxi drivers, it's about freedom of religion.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport is considering tough penalties against taxi drivers who say Islam forbids them from accepting passengers who carry alcohol and those who use guide dogs.

The Metropolitan Airports Commission voted Tuesday to conduct a public hearing on the matter Feb. 27. Cabdrivers, many of them Muslims from Somalia, say they are being put in a tough spot.

"Our people are ready to work with a customer always," said Yusuf Abdullah, 32, of Minneapolis. "I would like to keep my faith, and I would like to keep my job."

Airport Director Steve Wareham said his staff will recommend that cabdrivers who refuse a customer be given a 30-day suspension for the first offense and a two-year revocation of their airport license for a second refusal.

The current punishment is sending the cabdriver to the back of the taxi line, which can mean a wait of three or more hours, drivers said.

"You go behind 200 cabs — that's enough of a penalty," said Girma Asfaw, 55, of Bloomington.

Asfaw, who is Christian, said the new rules wouldn't affect him because he doesn't refuse passengers with alcohol. Still, he said, he doesn't believe it is fair to make the penalties more harsh.

In a written report to the commission, Wareham said drivers are refusing passengers on other grounds, too — not just because of liquor.

Some drivers don't like short fares or don't want passengers with credit cards, airline vouchers or guide dogs, Wareham said. Many Muslims say the Quran condemns dogs as unclean, which has prompted some drivers to refuse to carry passengers with dogs.

A blind woman told the commission Tuesday she was refused service by a cabdriver in downtown Minneapolis because of her German shepherd guide dog, Abby. She said she favors the stricter penalties.

"There's probably a number of people who have this kind of thing happen," said Sam Jasmine, 40, of Maple Grove. "I think it's important for the public to be able to take cabs and feel safe."

But some cabdrivers said refusals for reasons other than alcohol are rare. And some said the airport is trying to sensationalize the issue to drive Muslims out.

For Guled Mohamud, the problem began after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"Before 9/11, there was no problem on this alcohol issue," said Mohamud, 34, of Eden Prairie. "The Muslims have been here for 15 years, and this has never been an issue."

Not all taxi drivers oppose the increased penalties. Shaefer Cisson, of Eagan, said passengers should come first. "I think work and religion are two different things," Cisson said. "I don't think the two should be mixed up." Airport officials have estimated that as many as three-quarters of airport taxi drivers are Somali. Most Somalis are Muslim.

After next month's public hearing, the commission will hold another meeting to vote on the proposed penalties, which would be reflected in an amended airport ordinance governing taxi drivers.

Airport officials have suggested the amendment go into effect May 11. That will allow enough time for the airport to have further discussions with the drivers, and for drivers to decide whether they want to reapply for their airport permits, officials said.

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# BFLAG TALKS WITH DAYTONA BEACH NFB CHAPTER

by Butch Arnold (reprinted from February 2007 Braille Forum)

As BFLAG president, I never know what is going to appear in my e-mail or who is on the phone when I answer it. After BFLAG's very successful convention in Jacksonville where we had many Floridians join, I didn't think I would have the opportunity to go back to Florida for quite a while. Upon returning home I received an invitation to speak to the Greater Daytona Beach Area NFB and, quite frankly, I couldn't say no. In October, I had the pleasure of getting to know some of the other nice Floridians. Naturally, there was one gentleman who didn't want me there, but he was by far the exception in the group of 50 60 card-holding NFB members.

I was asked to come and talk about BFLAG, so I did. I also took the opportunity to discuss such issues as pedestrian safety, accessible voting and emergency preparedness. I was pleased to find out that in the Daytona Beach area, the NFB and the local ACB work together on many common problems and even support each other. I wish all members of both of our organizations could have an opportunity like I did. I only wish it hadn't been "Biketober Week" in Daytona Beach.

BFLAG always maintains an open mind toward such opportunities. Whenever a chance to educate ourselves and others occurs, we must and will strive to make the best out of it. I only hope others will do the same.

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# WORKING TOWARD OUR SHARED PURPOSE

By Rob Hill

I've been thinking about how we can do the work of BFLAG at the local level. I think back to my considerations when I first thought of a group like BFLAG.

I thought it would be useful for GLBT blind people to join together, just to show each other that we aren't alone and that many of us have faced the world in many of the same ways. This came to me as a result of my attending some PFLAG meetings where the mutual support was so very evident. I was already involved in advocacy in special transportation and I could see how the interest shown by concerned persons can make a difference.

My own view is that BFLAG has a mission to help both with social support and with social action. I decided to begin by testing the waters by inviting anyone who would be interested in discussing mutual problems to gather at the 1996 ACB convention. That began our convention-based work as a group... a group

that's now a formal ACB affiliate. At the conventions since then, we've enjoyed social and discussion opportunities. We've had educational and recreational activities. These have served us well and I think it's important to continue these offerings at conventions.

We have begun to reach beyond ourselves to influence other organizations to heed our needs. We have made a good start with the national office of PFLAG to help them be aware of the need for print-disabled persons to have access to their very good publications. We have approached the National Institutes of Health to press them to make their educational and informational materials accessible.

I'd like to suggest that we look more closely to what we might do as individual members to affect changes in our own communities. I have copied below the statement of purpose contained in BFLAG's constitution:

- A. To provide a forum for the views and concerns of visually impaired persons interested in issues facing those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.
- B. To provide information about publications of interest to members, that is produced in accessible format and by encouraging the production of such material in accessible format.
- C. To facilitate the free exchange of ideas, opinions, and information relative to matters of concern to blind people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.
- D. To seek to assure adequate services to those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender by agencies and institutions serving the blind.

I plan to ask our local GLBT organization to be sure its web site meets accessibility standards. I will put our brochure in the library of our brand new GLBT center. There are other things that we can do as individuals to further our cause and to be responsive to our own statement of purpose.

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## BFLAG'S WWW SITE HAS A NEW FEEL

By Jason Castonguay

Over the past several months, we have worked hard to update the BFLAG.ORG web site. The sites easy, clean navigation and search feature will make finding the information you need a snap. Its content management platform allows any authorized entities to quickly and conveniently publish information. No prior web-authoring skills are required - just fill out a form, preview your submission, and voila! Done! A second benefit of this more simplified content management platform is that It adheres to strict compliance access guidelines ensuring accessibility for people with vision impairments using screen access technology.

Additionally, customization through modular add-ons allows us to adapt to whatever will suit our needs. If we need community forums, ad-tracking tools, on-line shopping tools, or even statistics management through polls and surveys, we can do it.

Stay tuned as we continue to enhance BFLAG's presence on the web.

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## CONVENTION PROGRAM PREVIEW

### BFLAG 2007 CONVENTION PROGRAM

#### June 30

2:00 pm Volunteer orientation	[Penthouse Suite]	NC
5:00 pm Board Dinner	[off site]	NC
8:00 pm Sponsors Party and Benefit	[TBA]	\$100

#### July 1

2:00 pm Welcome Party	[Penthouse Suite]	\$15
10:00 pm Women's Movie Night	[Penthouse Suite]	\$10

#### July 2

7:30 am Morning Support Group	[Penthouse Suite]	NC
1:00 pm "Safe Sex" Seminar	[Penthouse Suite]	NC
2:30 pm "Same Sex Marriage" seminar	[Penthouse Suite]	NC
7:00 pm Annual Business meeting	[Penthouse Suite]	NC
Social to follow		

#### July 3

7:30 am Morning Support Group	[Penthouse Suite]	NC
1:00 pm "GLBT Literature" Seminar	[Penthouse Suite]	NC
2:30 pm "Anti-Violence" seminar	[Penthouse Suite]	NC
5:30 pm BFLAG Banquet	[off site]	\$25
10:00 pm "BrokeBack Mountain" showing	[Penthouse Suite]	\$10

#### July 4

7:30 am Morning Support Group	[Penthouse Suite]	NC
1:00 pm Martini Pool Party	[Millennium Pool]	\$20
5:00 pm Board Meeting	[TBA]	
6:00 pm "Band Shell" trip	[off site]	NC
10:00 pm Evening Support Group	[BFLAG Suite 901]	NC

#### July 5

7:30 am Morning Support Group	[BFLAG Suite 901]	NC
11:00 pm "Valley Fair" Amusement Park	[off site]	\$40
10:00 pm Evening Support Group	[BFLAG Suite 901]	NC

#### July 6

7:30 am Morning Support Group	[BFLAG Suite 901]	NC
5:30 pm BFLAG "Farewell Dinner"	[off site]	\$25
10:00 pm Evening Support Group	[TBA]	NC

## CONVENTION REGISTRATION AND COSTS

### PACKAGE PRICE

The package covers all BFLAG events except the sponsors' party	
If paid prior to May 1 <sup>st</sup>	\$145.00
If paid between May 1 <sup>st</sup> and June 15 <sup>th</sup>	\$155.00
If paid after June 15 <sup>th</sup>	\$165.00
"Valleyfair" cut off point June 20 <sup>th</sup>	

### ALA CART PRICING

BFLAG Registration	\$30.00
All members must register	
Welcome Party	\$15.00
"Women's Night" movie	\$10.00
"Brokeback Mountain"	\$10.00
Tuesday Banquet	\$25.00
At the University with a program	
"Valleyfair" Amusement park	\$40.00
Registration deadline June 20 <sup>th</sup>	
Martini Pool party	\$20.00
Farewell Dinner/Party	\$25.00

You can register at [BFLAG.org](http://BFLAG.org) using a credit card or by phone using either a check or credit card by calling 410-254-1972. Please remember that you should still register with ACB for ACB and other affiliate programs.

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## GET DISCOUNTED AIR FARES TO BFLAG CONVENTION

Through a special arrangement with Northwest Airlines, BFLAG members and others attending the ACB convention in Minneapolis can receive a 5-7% discount off most Northwest Airlines fares.

The discount, if available, applies to travel to and from Minneapolis between June 27<sup>th</sup> and July 10<sup>th</sup>, and may also apply to Northwest Airlines partner carriers. When you book your reservation, the telephone agent will inform you if the discount is available for your particular routing and class of fare. The 7% discount is available for most 30 day plus advance reservations, so be sure to book early.

To take advantage of this discount offer, you must book your reservation through a special Northwest Airlines number: 800-328-1111. Also give the agent the special Northwest World File number NYOU4U.

Alternatively, you can try to book online, although you may find the Northwest Airlines site, [www.nwa.com](http://www.nwa.com), to be difficult to use with a screen reader. Here are a few instructions to get you started with the online booking process:

- Point your browser to [www.nwa.com](http://www.nwa.com).
- Click on the link "Northwest Airlines discount travel E-cert Redemption".
- Under the heading "Do you have an E-cert, electronic voucher, or meeting agreement" open the combo box and select Northwest World File number.
- Enter the World File Number and complete the form which asks for your travel schedule and preferences.
- Click on the search button, and you will be presented with Routings and fares.
- If you are in the Northwest frequent flier program, World Perks, you will be asked to enter your ID number and password. Otherwise you will be asked to log in as a guest.
- Complete your purchase.

The online reservation process is a bit complex, so you may prefer to make a phone reservation. Be sure to ask whether the fare you are quoted over the phone with or without the discount is the lowest fare available. Some airlines do offer better fares on line.

To recap, you must give the agent the special World File Number, use the special reservation number, or book online as outlined above. Remember you receive the discount. BFLAG will receive a discounted travel voucher for every forty tickets purchased through this program.

Enjoy the discount, and we look forward to seeing you in Minneapolis!

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## BFLAG'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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