

Happy 2021 my friends!

It is a new year, full of new promise and new expectations. Through hard work and dedication, we have elected national leadership that will roll back the attacks on those we love and, hopefully, walk with us as we continue our journey of not only protecting but celebrating the LGBTQ community. There is hope, to be sure. But, there must not be complacency. We have not “solved” any problems. We have changed the environment and improved the tools. But, there is still much difficult work to be done. We must hold those in power accountable for keeping their word. We must push, and then push harder, to win the battles that must be won. There are powerful allies on our side. It is our responsibility to utilize these new alliances to further our agenda.

Yes, I said agenda. I don't know when that word developed a negative connotation. Last year, I was fortunate to be asked to serve on a committee charged with interviewing candidates for a local elected position. To a person, they all claimed some version of not having an agenda. To each of them, when my turn came to ask questions relevant to the LGBTQ community, I was quite clear that I DID have an agenda: to do all I could to further the rights of the community I was representing. The candidates, as well as some members of the committee, seemed surprised, perhaps even unhappy. What is wrong with having an agenda? Everything I do, via PFLAG, my school's GSA, committees I serve on, etc. I do in service to my agenda. Of course I have one. My son's life is tied to the successful implementation of my agenda. You're damn right I have one.

In 2021, do not be afraid of voicing your agenda. Let others squirrel theirs away from the light. Wear yours proudly. Your child or loved one is your agenda. What can you do to push it along?

Our 2021 To Do List:

- Hold those in power accountable
- Push our agenda of equal rights for the LGBTQ community
- Identify the hurdles to achieving that agenda: laws, people, organizations, etc.
- Ensure that ALL of the horrible orders, laws, policies, rules, and attitudes enacted over the past few years are rolled back. All the way back.
- Love and support those we love

Not an easy list. But, an important one. Oh, and one more: Have the biggest party ever when we are all vaccinated and allowed within 6 feet of each other!!

My wish for you in the new year is love, health, happiness, and strength. We will need all of these as we continue the fight for our agenda.

Happy New Year!

