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## NEWS RELEASE

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### SALISBURY PFLAG ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP CHANGE

Salisbury PFLAG is a chapter of PFLAG national the largest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning/Queer (LGBTQ) ally organization in the nation. Since being founded in 2015, Salisbury PFLAG has seen astronomic growth and accordingly new positions have been created on the executive board to accommodate this growth. Effective September 1, 2020, Mark DeLancey, the current President of Salisbury PFLAG, will be accepting the position of Executive Director. Mark is retired from an accomplished career in the theater where he held such positions as Creator & Co-Founder M&D Playhouse and President of the New Hampshire Theater Alliance. He is also a former Marine and an active volunteer in the community. According to Mark "I could not be more honored to become Executive Director of Salisbury PFLAG. While I could never expect to fill Michele's shoes, I am committed to guiding the organization in its bright future and am excited and humbled by those possibilities."

The current Executive Director, Dr. Michele Schlehofer will be accepting the newly created position of Membership and Legislative Chair. Michele is an applied social/community psychologist who has conducted extensive research and trainings on LGBTQ+ topics. She has long advocated for LGBTQ+ people and in her new role will be actively working to engage members with advocating for LGBTQ+ equalizing public policy, once legislative sessions resume."

Diversity is one of our biggest community assets. Salisbury PFLAG firmly believes that people thrive and are best able to live up to their full human potential when they are fully supported and unconditionally accepted. While recent years have seen considerable progress in the movement for LGBTQ+ rights, there is still much work to be done. LGBTQ+ people still experience disproportionate rates of harassment, victimization, and discrimination in comparison to their cisgender and heterosexual counterparts. The disparities that LGBTQ+ people experience are even greater in rural environments, such as ours, where resources are at a minimum. Salisbury PFLAG is committed to community building, enhancing access to resources, fostering a culture of inclusion, and breaking the barriers that prevent the LGBTQ+ community from achieving full equality.