

Kathy Munzinger



In her own quiet way, Kathy Munzinger has broken through a lot of barriers.

After her successful 25-year career as a business owner in the male-dominated boating industry, Kathy today works as an unpaid leader for a national nonprofit, serving as a four-state Midwest Regional Director for the national PFLAG organization.

Last October, Kathy was elected to the National Board of Directors for the 350,000-member PFLAG.

PFLAG, founded 50 years ago, is the nation's largest and oldest organization dedicated to supporting, educating and advocating for LGBTQ+ people, and those who love them. Kathy works with chapter leaders in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas. Kathy turned to PFLAG when her daughter came out as a lesbian while in college, and Kathy needed information and support. In PFLAG, Kathy found a community of advocates and, importantly, parents who shared their families' experiences.

When the local chapter struggled some years ago, Kathy reluctantly stepped in and served five years as President to revitalize the group. During her tenure, the chapter in 2013 won PFLAG's national advocacy award for its billboard campaign, which continues today. She also served on the Executive Committee of the 2014-2015 No Repeal campaign to preserve Springfield's amended Non-Discrimination Ordinance, and she was the first straight ally to serve on the committee of Springfield's highly successful Black Tie fundraising gala.

In her working life, Kathy co-founded with her husband a highly successful sales agency that provided accessories to boatbuilders in 13 states. Kathy worked with boat designers and engineers, helping them integrate the accessories she sold into their new model offerings. She was recognized by her peers when they elected her President of the National Marine Representatives' Association, the first woman to serve in that role.

Upon graduation from the University of Missouri, Kathy was the office manager of one of the first satellite offices of Edward D. Jones & Co., now a major International brokerage house.

Moving into her degree field of interior design, Kathy then worked as a designer, while managing drapery sales and installation for a major retailer and manufacturer in central Missouri.

Kathy and her spouse, Jeff Munzinger have been married for 51 years. They are parents of two married children and grandparents of two three-year-olds.