

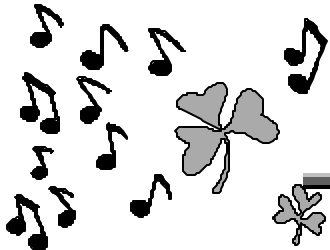
Highlights

- The Marriage Furor
- Local, National, & Bette Midler Marriage Commentary
- Positive Voice Education Leader Speaks Out on TV

Inside

- Rainbow Family Wisconsin Conference
- News and Commentary
- Community Calendar of Events

POSITIVE VOICE, INC News



SITTIN' IN A TREE . . . K-I-S-S-I-N-G

First comes love, then comes marriage . . .

Next Positive Voice General Membership meeting: March 20, Liberty Hall in Kimberly.

Please join **Positive Voice** for a

Liberty Hall is located in Kimberly at 800 Eisenhower Drive. Directions from out of town are as follows: Highway 41 to 441 east, to College Avenue exit, then east to Eisenhower Drive. Kimberly is situated north of Appleton and south of Green Bay on Highway 41.

*Liberty Hall is located immediately in front of the Hilton Hotel. **All are invited to attend. Bring your friends!** For more information about this event please call (920) 435-4404 or e-mail: pvnew4gibt@aol.com.*

Letter From the President

Given the almost daily news reports about same sex marriage from across the country during the past few weeks, many of us feel like we have been riding a wrenching emotional roller coaster of highs and lows. However, nothing has been more *painful* than the vote made by our own State legislators to pass a proposed amendment to our constitution that states only a marriage between one man and one woman will be valid in Wisconsin. It also would prohibit any legal status "identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals".

Already, the city of Madison and Dane County have stated that the amendment would cause them to discontinue health insurance benefits to domestic partners as they currently do.

What is the good news? Perhaps that the inequalities that currently exist in our state and country for GLBT's are being openly discussed. Some minds are being opened to the discrimination and have joined ranks of support. Many GLBT's and their friends are beginning to rally in a united voice, working together in pulling down this last major wall of inequity that still exists in this country. As it stands, the proposed state amendment must be passed by both houses in next two-year session that convenes in January 2005. If passed, the amendment will go before voters as a referendum on the April 2005 ballot for final approval. There is much work to be completed before then.

If you have not previously considered yourself involved politically, consider it a duty of citizenship and become so now. If you feel your voice or vote in our democratic process does not count, simply reminder how close the 2000

Feel the need to reach out?

POSITIVE VOICE

An outreach and educational organization for the Northeast Wisconsin LGBT community.

Next meeting: March 20, Liberty Hall, Kimberly
A discussion on same-sex marriages

PO Box 1381 Green Bay, WI 54305-1381
info@pvinc.org • www.pvinc.org
(920) 435-4404

discussion of same-sex marriage and the issues that are surrounding it. Let your opinions be heard! Social at 6:00, sandwiches at 6:30 discussion at 7:00 p.m. Food is 5\$ members/10\$ non-members; meeting is free.

Presidential election tallies were. Realize that less than a quarter of eligible voters made it to the polls in the last election. If indeed GLBTs comprised 5 to 10% of the population (depending on what study you review), GLBT's and their friends can make a HUGE difference in the outcome of any vote by ballot. If you have not yet discussed this issue with your family and friends, make plans to do so soon. Do what you can to be educated on the issues and then participate in the process. For example, State Senator Hansen (democrat) voted for the amendment to ban same-sex marriages and civil unions. Why? He explained that for every contact he received asking him to vote against it, 3 contacts were made asking him to vote for the amendment. Most politicians vote the will of their electorate. Your phone call, office visit and/or vote **will** make a difference.

If you would like to have more information on the rights that would be implicit if Same Sex Marriage or civil unions were allowed, please plan on joining **Positive Voice** at our next "lite" dinner meeting on Saturday, March 20th. Our meeting will be at the Liberty Hall Banquet and Conference Center in Kimberly, WI with social time starting at 6:00pm, sandwich buffet at 6:30pm and meeting to begin at 7:15pm. Our guest speakers will be Barb and Jim Kotsonis of Fond du Lac. Barb is a Regional Directory of Action Wisconsin and a co-founder of "Fond du Lac: Moving Forward". Jim is also a board member of Action Wisconsin.

You will also find in this issue, a ballot for nominations to the **POSITIVE VOICE** board of directors. All 9 board member positions are open for nomination for our General Membership Meeting in May. If you or someone you know would like to play a more active role in **PV** and our community, consider board membership. If not, perhaps consider working as a member on one of our

PV committees. You will make new friends and have an opportunity to share skills that will benefit our community. If you have questions, please feel free to contact **PV**, any board member, or me.

Take care, Dennis Krenn - **PV** President

State Capitol Boycott

Christopher Ott, Exec. Dir., Action Wisconsin

On March 1st, over 300 people came to the Wisconsin State Capitol to boycott and protest the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on SJR 63, the amendment to deny recognition and protection to gay and lesbian couples. People came not just from Madison but places like Milwaukee, Green Bay, and Appleton. Our main message was that writing a whole category of people out of the constitution is NOT a legitimate matter for public debate. After a jam-packed press conference and rally, we marched through the Capitol. Our chant, "Don't discriminate, don't amend," was audible inside the hearing chamber.

Next, we held a silent protest with participants' mouths taped shut to symbolize the way that all of us who care about equality would be silenced by this amendment. The protest generated significant press coverage in Wisconsin and beyond -- and speaking personally, it was truly moving to see 300 people in the Capitol rotunda with their mouths taped shut in protest. It's a tough fight we're in, but we are trying as hard as we can to provide creative, effective ways for people to show their opposition.

But our work isn't done. Despite our efforts yesterday, we expect the Senate Judiciary Committee to approve the amendment. Then the next step will likely be a floor vote in the Assembly, sometime in the next week or so. We are planning another response, which you can participate in. For those who can come to the

Capitol, we will let you know as far in advance as possible, but we might only have a few hours' notice. It is possible that the vote will be scheduled in the evening. If you haven't already, please go to our Action Center and send a message to Senate Majority Leader Mary Panzer asking her not to bring this amendment to a vote:

<http://www.actionwisconsin.org/take-action.html> Thank you for your interest and support during this critical struggle for equality.

PV Educational Leader Speaks Out on TV

By Kathy Leadley, Chair of the Positive Voice Education Committee

Did you know the Secretary of Education call our National Education Association a TERRORIST organization at a governor's convention! I am a teacher Terrorist and I believe in Gay Marriage. I must be lower than dirt and on every CIA and FBI list there is. Funny, on our teacher supply list, guns are not listed. George Bush and his appointees may just be organizing our members for us. My fingers are bloody from e-mailing for all these issues. My daughter quipped that all the headlines this week were my causes!

WBAY TV contacted me last week on a referral by Action Wisconsin. I spoke in favor of Same Sex Marriage on TV. They pitted my interview against an Evangelical, "Leave it to Beaver" kind of man with a tie, stay at home mom in a \$200,000 home with a little daughter and a son. They, of course, thought it was MORALLY WRONG. My piece said it was not about religion but CIVIL RIGHTS.

They ended the piece with me saying that I want my son to be afforded the same rights by marriage as my daughter is presently. They introduced me as a straight teacher. Interesting! The reporter must have listened to me because I said to him "I

don't ever say I have a heterosexual daughter, but I do say I have a gay son. My hope was that in the future conversations of this nature will not even be necessary." I also hoped the children of that family also on the TV news were not gay or lesbian because they would be in reparative therapy the rest of their lives!

Before the interview I gathered the staff at Wilder, my school, and told them I would be speaking for Gay Marriage on TV. I wanted them also to know that I would also be disclosing that my son is gay. For those who did not know, I did not want them to find out by watching TV. I assured them I would never lobby them on this issue but if anyone wanted to talk about it I would gladly do so. It was well received with a mixture of responses.

Some gave hugs at the end, some made comments and some said nothing. The continued don't ask don't tell invisibility. No parents called school to complain, so far that is good. My "coming out" is a tiny glimpse for me, on what tremendous energy gay and lesbian people have to use daily whether they are in our out. I also, as usual, used humor. I said I had one conversation with a staff member who was concerned that their son was living with a girl. I said I was concerned as well because my son was living with a boy!!! Most laughed and we went back to work. Thank you for all your e-mail updates. San Francisco is still holding and I heard another city somewhere may join in. These are exciting and scary times. Some of my straight friends may not be for Same-Sex Marriage but they are not in favor of writing discrimination into any Constitution, State or US. Perhaps people will use logic and not emotion or religion on this issue. Senate Majority Leader Mary Panzer is said to be a fair-minded leader. We want to give her a chance to live up to that reputation.

As Majority Leader, Senator Panzer has the power to set the agenda for the Senate -- and the power to prevent the anti-gay state constitutional amendment from reaching a floor vote.

According to a February 25th report in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Panzer said the Senate has not agreed to bring it to a vote. In an earlier article, she said, "I don't know if it's the right time or not."

Please tell her now is not the right time -- and that there's never a right time to write discrimination into the Wisconsin Constitution. To contact Senator Panzer, click here to send an email message:

<http://www.actionwisconsin.org/takeaction.html> Or call her office directly at: (800) 662-1227 or (608) 266-7513. If you call, here are some suggestions on what to say:

* Urge Senator Panzer to put a stop to the state constitutional amendment on marriage rights, S.J.R. 63.

* Tell her this amendment should not be a legislative priority -- indeed a recent poll showed that 75% of Wisconsin citizens think the Legislature should focus on other issues.

* An amendment like this will foster intolerance in communities all over our state.

Bette Midler to President Bush on Gay Marriage

Dear President Bush,

Today you called upon Congress to move quickly to amend the US Constitution, and set in Federal stone a legal definition of marriage. I would like to know why?

In your speech, you stated that this Amendment would serve to protect marriage in America, which I must confess confuses me. Like you, I believe in the importance of marriage and I feel that we as a society take the institution far too lightly. In my circle of family, friends and acquaintances, the vast majority have married and divorced - some more than once. Still,

I believe in marriage. I believe that there is something fundamental about finding another person on this planet with whom you want to build a life and family, and make a positive contribution to society. I believe that we need more positive role models for successful marriage in this country - something to counteract the images we get bombarded with in popular culture. When we are assaulted with images of celebrities of varying genres, be it actors, sports figures, socialites, or even politicians who shrug marriage on and off like the latest fashion, it is vitally important to the face of our nation, for our children and our future, that we have a balance of commitment and fidelity with which to stave off the negativity. I search for these examples to show my own daughter, so that she can see that marriage is more than a disposable whim, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

As a father, I'm sure you have faced these same concerns and difficulties in raising your own daughters. Therefore I can also imagine that you must understand how thrilled I have been over the past few weeks to come home and turn on the news with my family. To finally have concrete examples of true commitment, honest love, and steadfast fidelity was such a relief and a joy. Instead of speaking in the hypothetical, I was finally able to point to these men and women, standing together for hours in the pouring rain, and tell my child that this is what its all about. Forget Britney. Forget Kobe. Forget Strom. Forget about all the people that we know who have taken so frivolously the pure and simple beauty of love and tarnished it so consistently. Look instead at the joy in the beautiful faces of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon - 51 years together!

I mean, honestly Mr. President - how many couples do you know who are together for 51 years? I'm sure you agree that this love story provides a

wonderful opportunity to teach our children about the true meaning and value of marriage. On the steps of San Francisco City Hall, rose petals and champagne, suits and veils, horns honking and elation in the streets; a celebration of love the likes of which this society has never seen. This morning, however, my joy turned to sadness, my relief transformed into outrage, and my peace became anger. This morning, I watched you stand before this nation and belittle these women, the thousands who stood with them, and the countless millions who wish to follow them. How could you do that, Mr. President? How could you take something so beautiful - a clear and defining example of the true nature of commitment - and declare it to be anything less? What is it that validates your marriage which somehow doesn't apply to Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon? By what power, what authority are you so divinely imbued that you can stand before me and this nation and hold their love to a higher standard?

Don't speak to me about homosexuality, Mr. President. Don't tell me that the difference lies in the bedroom. I would never presume to ask you or your wife how it is you choose to physically express your love for one another, and I defy you to stand before Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon and ask them to do the same. It is none of my business, as it is none of yours, and it has nothing to do with the "sanctity of marriage". I'm sure you would agree that marriage is far more than sexual expression, and its high time we all started focusing on all the other aspects of a relationship which hold it together over the course of a lifetime. Therefore, with the mechanics of sex set aside, I ask you again - what makes a marriage? I firmly believe that whatever definition you derive, there are thousands upon thousands of shining examples for you to embrace.

You want to protect marriage. I admire and support that, Mr.

President. Together, as a nation, let us find and celebrate examples of what a marriage should be. Together, let us take couples who embody the principles of commitment, fidelity, sacrifice and love, and hold them up before our children as role models for their own futures. Together, let us reinforce the concept that love is about far more than sex, despite what popular culture would like them to believe.

Please, for the sake of our children, for the sake of our society, for the sake of our future, do not take us down this road. Under the guise of protection, do not support divisiveness. Under the guise of unity, do not endorse discrimination. Under the guise of sanctity, do not devalue commitment. Under the guise of democracy, do not encourage this amendment.

Bette Midler

Rainbow Families WI 4th Annual Conference

RFW Mission: Rainbow Families Wisconsin (RFW) works towards building a strong community for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) parents, prospective parents, and our children.

Date: April 2, 3 and 4, 2004 Workshop Day is Saturday, April 3 from 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Location: J.F. Friedrich Hotel and Conference Center, UW-Madison Campus, Madison, WI

Prizes: Raffle tickets sold at the conference and a winner will be drawn during the dinner and family dance for: 1.) R Family Vacations, Rosie and Kelly O'Donnell's gay family friendly travel agency, has donated a 7 day cruise (\$5,000 value) with balcony view on their maiden voyage in July from New York to the Bahamas and Key West. 2.) Olivia Cruises and Vacations donated a weeks stay at the Sandpiper Resort in beautiful Port Saint Lucie, Florida

Why come to the conference

In these politically tense times, when our rights are not only being denied, it is being proposed to ban them forever, it is extremely important to gather for our continual education, support, networking, renewal and don't forget--FUN! GLBT parents, prospective parents, allies of GLBT families, extended family members, educators, social workers, community and political leaders, and those who care about diversity are encouraged to attend this special day. Explore and expand your understanding of family diversity, diversity within families, parenting, creating families, and building powerful communities across the state.

Children will be treated to a day of fun, crafts, sports, and music as they spend quality time with kids with families like theirs. Teens will spend the day working with the staff of Diverse and Resilient to discuss the intricacies of being teens in their families in today's world.

Conference information:

<http://www.geocities.com/rainbowfamilieswisconsin/brochure.html>

Registration and Childcare:

<http://www.geocities.com/rainbowfamilieswisconsin/conference2004registration.html>

Conference Chairperson:

Patti Thompson, 608-244-5258 or online at: pattithompson@charter.net

The Show Will Go On!

PrideFest, thanks to two incredible fundraisers, was able to meet the financial commitments necessary to make sure we have a festival this year. However, the fund-raising and need for volunteers is far from done (is it ever?). So, mark your calendars for the Ronnie Nyles Fundraiser: PrideFest Legacy Live Show and Dance Benefit (and HUGE Silent Auction) Friday February 27, 2004 Hotel Metro 411 E. Mason Street, Milwaukee. Starting at 8:00 p.m. Everywhere you look there

are more people helping make sure our festival lives on.

LAST, BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST. PrideFest 2004 still needs a Proud Crowd Director & a Secretary. If you want to get involved let us know, by replying to phone number below! Jennifer Gryniewicz Executive Director Cream City Foundation 414-225-0244

www.creamcityfoundation.org

Directions to the Metro Hotel:

From the North via I-43 (Sheboygan, Green Bay): Take I-43 south to exit that says Hwy 145 (left lane), and then proceed to Broadway exit. Take Broadway south until you get to Mason Street. Turn left onto Mason, go one block to Milwaukee Street. The hotel is on the southeast corner of Milwaukee and Mason Street.

Bill Maher on Gay Marriage

[Sorry, folks, this came in too late for the February issue, but I thought many of you might want to see Bill Maher's (host of HBO's Real Time with Bill Maher) Valentine's Day message. Ed.]

Valentine's Day, that great state holiday

NEW RULE: You can't claim you're the party of smaller government, and then clamor to make laws about love. If there's one area I don't want the US government to add to its list of screw-ups, it's love.

On the occasion of this Valentine's Day, let's stop and ask ourselves: What business is it of the state how consenting adults choose to pair off, share expenses, and eventually stop having sex with each other?

And why does the Bush administration want a constitutional amendment about weddings? Hey, birthdays are important, too -- why not include them in the great document? Let's make a law that gay people can have birthdays, but straight people get more cake -- you know, to send the right message to kids. Republicans are always saying we should privatize things, like schools,

prison, Social Security -- OK, so how about we privatize privacy? If the government forbids gay men from tying the knot, what's their alternative? They can't all marry Liza Minnelli.

Republicans used to be the party that opposed social engineering, but now they push programs to outlaw marriage for some people, and encourage it for others. If you're straight, there's a billion-five in the budget to encourage and promote marriage -- including seed money to pay an old Jewish woman to call up people at random and say "So why aren't you married, Mr. Big Shot?"

But when it comes to homosexuals, Republicans sing "I Love You Just the Way You Oughta Be." They oppose gay marriage because it threatens or mocks -- or does something -- to the "sanctity of marriage," as if anything you can do drunk out of your mind in front of an Elvis impersonator in Las Vegas could be considered sacred. Half the people who pledge eternal love are doing it because one of them is either knocked-up, rich or desperate, but in George Bush's mind, marriage is only a beautiful lifetime bond of love and sharing -- kind of like what his Dad has with the Saudis.

But at least the right wing aren't hypocrites on this issue -- they really believe that homosexuality, because it says so in the Bible, is an "abomination" and a "dysfunction" that's "curable": they believe that if a gay man just devotes his life to Jesus, he'll stop being gay -- because the theory worked out so well with the Catholic priests.

But the greater shame in this story goes to the Democrats, because they don't believe homosexuality is an "abomination," and therefore their refusal to endorse gay marriage is a hypocrisy. The right are true believers, but the Democrats are merely pretending that they believe gays are not entitled to the same state-sanctioned misery as the rest of us. The

Democrats' position doesn't come from the Bible, it's ripped right from the latest poll, which says that most Americans are against gay marriage.

Well, you know what: Sometimes "most Americans" are wrong. Where's the Democrat who will stand up and go beyond the half measures of "civil union" and "hate the sin, love the sinner," and say loud and clear: 'There IS no sin, and homosexuality is NOT an abomination' -- although that Boy George musical Rosie O'Donnell put on comes close. The only thing abominable about being gay is the amount of time you have to put in at the gym. But that aside, the law in this country should reflect that some people are just born 100 percent outrageously, fabulously, undeniably Fire Island gay, and that they don't need re-programming. They need a man with a slow hand. Happy Valentine's

What You Can Do Right Now!

Anti-Gay Constitutional Amendment *National Gay and Lesbian Task Force*

On Tuesday, February 24, 2004, President Bush endorsed and called for quick passage of the anti-gay Musgrave Constitutional Amendment - which as it is now written, would ban the recognition of *not just marriage*, but *all* forms of same-sex partner recognition, including civil unions and domestic partnerships.

Upon hearing Bush's speech, the Task Force helped pull together rallies/press conferences attended by hundreds of people in both New York and Los Angeles. Many of you asked what you can do to express your outrage. In the short term:

1. Call and write your U.S. Representative and two U.S. Senators and tell them to vote against an amendment to the U.S. Constitution banning civil marriage for same-sex couples and urge them to lobby their colleagues in Congress to do the same. Don't know who your elected officials are? Go here: [POSITIVE VOICE -- phone: 920-435-4404
PO Box 1381, Green Bay, WI 54305-1381](http://www.vote-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

smart.org/ to find contact information for them.

2. Speak From Your Heart With Family and Friends. It is vitally important that we all express to our loved ones why the issue of equal marriage rights for same-sex couples is so important..

3. Call the White House. Right-wing political and religious extremists are flooding the White House with calls of support for Bush. We must make our voices heard. White House phone lines: comments: 202-456-1111, TTY/TDD comments: 202-456-6213.

4. Support the work of the Task Force. Please Help Us Stop discrimination. If you would like to donate, we are at <http://www.TheTaskForce.org>.

Town Hall Meeting Report

By Bruce Moran

Three board members of **Positive Voice** attended Action Wisconsin's Town Hall Meeting on Marriage Equality at Madison's Orpheum Theatre on Feb. 12th. There was a very large turn-out. The meeting consisted of a panel of speakers, including speakers from Action Wisconsin, the Human Rights Campaign, Lambda Legal, the Urban League of Madison, State Representative Mark Pocan, and two couples who gave testimonials. Here are some of the thoughts expressed at the meeting: The moderator from Madison's Urban League who was part of the 1960's civil rights movement stated that the present gay and lesbian movement is really a civil rights movement. The arguments he hears today for gay and lesbian rights are the same arguments he heard years ago for rights of black people. Domestic partnership designations create a new layer of "separate but equal" reminiscent of the 1896 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that legalized black people to have separate drinking fountains and to have separate seating in the backs of buses. Domestic

partnership arrangements do not have the full benefits as the benefits of marriage, and as such delegate gays and lesbians to second-class citizenship.

The Lambda Legal representative talked about marriage as a civil contract. As such, religion is separate. Thus a church would still have the option to reject weddings of gays and lesbians. Freedom of religion would continue unaffected by the civil contract of gay and lesbian marriages. The consensus was that the time to act is now and that justice delayed is justice denied.

The whirlwind of proposed national and state legislation was discussed. U. S. Representative Tammy Baldwin from Wisconsin was recognized as a leader in fighting the nationally proposed constitutional amendment to ban gay and lesbian marriages. On the state level, in the wake of the governor's veto of a bill to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman, some legislators proposed an amendment to the state's constitution to oppose same-sex marriages and civil unions. State Representative Mark Pocan predicted that this amendment would not become law. He did think, though, that this proposed amendment fostered useful discussions of gay and lesbian issues.

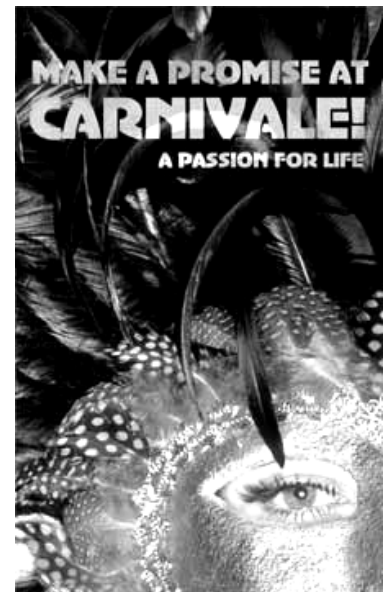
Two days earlier Rep Pocan introduced a bill in the Wisconsin legislature on the freedom to marry, for which he received a standing ovation at the Town Hall meeting. An audience member asked a slightly off-topic question but still an interesting one. He suggested that if coming out on a one-on-one basis is helpful in dispelling myths about gays and lesbians, as is generally believed, then why doesn't the gay and lesbian movement have a multi-million dollar national media campaign showing real gay and lesbians going about their lives, thereby dispelling the myths. At the conclusion of the meeting the panelists all received a standing

ovation. The audience seemed energized from the meeting, but it was clear that although our movement has come a long way, our journey is not over yet.

Carnivale in Milwaukee to Benefit ARCW

Saturday Evening, April 3rd

Awash yourself in color and immerse yourself in the merriment and costumes of Carnivale for the 18th Annual Make A Promise gala. This black tie-optional event will feature fine food, the city's best silent auction, the Big 50/50 Raffle, the recognition of spirited supporters, hot Brazilian music by One Drum, and a special performance by Chicago's hottest dance party diva--Saucie Bernaise , all with a Brazilian Carnivale flare! **These auctions items just in!** Cocktail party for 40, tickets to "Mama Mia", a Carnivale-themed Christmas tree, a day in the kitchen at Mia Famiglia, MP3 player, an antique bedroom set, make your own billboard, a 14kt. gold open link bracelet and a stainless martini set. If you have new ideas and leads to



complete the auction, let us know!

Purchase your tickets now! For online purchase, click the *Make A Promise* link at www.arcw.org. Or, by phone at (800) 359-9272 extension

1570. Or by e-mail to Chris.Allen@arcw.org. If you haven't received your official invitation to Carnivale, let us know!

Make A Promise at Carnivale! benefits AIDS prevention, care and treatment services of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

Tyrolean Vacation Planned

Tyrolean Holiday Planned for May 2005 Have you ever wanted to take a vacation with other Gays and Lesbians? Well, start saving your pennies and mark your calendars because this chance of a lifetime can be yours if you reserve a spot with a couple of PV members who have been there before. Gary and Lloyd took a similar vacation several years ago and are planning on going back to Europe next Spring. The 17-day tour includes stays in Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Lichtenstein, and "The Top of the World - Iceland". Pending dates are either from May 26-June 12 or June 2-June 19, 2005.

Approximate cost for a group of 30 people (based on double occupancy) is \$2800 per person, and includes airfare from Minneapolis, surface travel by coach, motels, some meals and tours. And memories. Highlights of the trip include: 3 nights in Iceland and perhaps a dip in the Blue Lagoon—a geothermal wonder; visits to the Zell (Mosel River) wine district, Trier, and Freiburg-Black Forest regions; Lucerne, Basel and the Rhein-Pfalz (Europe's largest waterfalls featured on television's "The Amazing

Race"); Innsbruck, Kitzbuehl, Salzburg and Bershengaden; and finally Munich and Frankfurt.

Come on along and see how welcoming and inclusive Europeans can be. For more information or questions about a vacation you will be talking about for years, please contact [Note: the deadline for this trip has passed, so the contacts have been removed.]

GLBT Book And Video Library

Available at Angels of Hope-MCC Until **POSITIVE VOICE**, Inc. finds permanent office and meeting space, Angels of Hope-MCC, 3607 Libal Street, Allouez, has been housing a growing collection of GLBTQ resource information on a wide range of subjects. All may be checked out before or after church services on Sundays (11am) or by appointment with church staff.

While the collection is expanding, contributions of previously owned materials are always welcomed. Thanks to many of you who have already graciously donated items. If you have things to add to our reference library, please contact **PV** at the website or call Lloyd at 920 433 9810. Thank you.

Newsletter Ad Rates

Prices are for three months, and sizes are only approximate:

1/8 Page (Business card 4.25" X 2.75") \$15.; **1/4 Page** (4.25" X 5.5") \$25; **1/2 Page** (4.25" X 11" OR 8.5" X 5.5") \$40; **Full Page** (8.5" X 11") \$70. To inquire about

placing an ad or the rates for running an ad for longer than three months, please contact **PV** at (920) 435-4404 OR write to **POSITIVE VOICE** PO Box 1381, Green Bay, WI 54305-1381. We can also be reached via e-mail at pvnew4gblt@aol.com .

Our Mission Statement:

We believe all gay people, their families, and friends have the right to come together and treat each other with respect, dignity and friendship. We must work together as a unified group to create a positive atmosphere that allows us to share our viewpoints and feelings, to grow, and to gain a greater sense of fulfillment in our lives.

Editorial Policy:

Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of **POSITIVE VOICE** or its members. Publication of the name, photograph or likeness of any person, organization or business in this newsletter is not be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of that person, organization or business. No one's name will be published without his/her consent. Contents of this publication may not be reprinted in whole, or part, without the permission from the board of directors.

PV Board of Directors

Pres: Dennis Krenn; **VP:** Lloyd Schaefer; **Treasurer:** Bruce Moran; **Secretary:** Bob Gulig. **PV Board Members:** Tim, Michael Nitz, John Olski, Ed Huyck., Gene Anderson, Tana Koss (alternate board member)

Calendar of Events 2003:

MARCH 2004

17 Happy St. Patrick's Day—wear something green and kiss someone who is Irish! (Or pretend they are Irish!!)

20 POSITIVE VOICE Membership Meeting –Same Sex Marriage issues. Gathering at Liberty Hall in Kimberly at 6:00pm, optional Sandwich Buffet at 6:30pm (\$5 members/\$10 non-members), Meeting at 7:00pm. Details on pg. 1

APRIL 2004

2-4 Rainbow Families 2004 Spring Conference – Friday through Sunday at the JF Frederik Center, UW Madison.

3 Make a Promise Dinner, Dance & Auction AKA Carnivale in Milwaukee for ARCW – see: www.arcw.org for more reservation information on this event.

- 5 POSITIVE VOICE Board Meeting** (to be held in Appleton. Call for directions).
- 11 Happy Easter—a time of Rebirth and New Beginnings!!**
- 17 POSITIVE VOICE** Pizza, salad & Film program in Green Bay (details forthcoming). Mark your calendars now!
MAY 2004

- 3 POSITIVE VOICE Board Meeting** (to be held in Appleton. Call for directions).
- 21 POSITIVE VOICE Annual Membership Meeting**, Gathering at Liberty Hall in Kimberly at 6:00pm, optional family style dinner at 6:30pm (\$5 members/\$10 non-members), Annual Meeting with voting and Board approval at 7:00pm. Guest Speaker will be Nancy Heykes, the new director of the Fox Cities Multicultural Center in Appleton.

Organizations and Regularly Scheduled Events:

- Action Wisconsin:** GLBT political action group. For more info., call Mike Fitzpatrick at 920-437-7400 (days).
- Alcoholic's Anonymous (Gay Meetings):** Five open meetings each week in Appleton and Green Bay. Call 920-336-2868 or 920-954-9169 for info.
- Angels of Hope M.C.C.:** Services every Sunday (11:00AM) at 3607 Libal St., **Allouez**. Call 920-983-7453. Services every Sunday (6:00 PM) at 815 North Richmond St., **Appleton**. Call 920-991-0128.
- AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW)** Green Bay: 824 S. Broadway 920-437-7400 or 800-675-9400. Appleton: 120 N. Morrison St. Suite 201 920-733-2068 or 800-773-2068.
- Support Groups:** Free, confidential open to any person living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Green Bay: 7:30-9:00pm, every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of month at Renaissance Healing Arts Center, 311 S. Jefferson, Green Bay, WI 54301, 920-437-4325. Fox Cities: 7:00-8:30pm, every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of month at Family Resource Association of Fox Valley, Midway Road, 1488 Kenwood Drive, Menasha, WI 54952, 920-739-4226. For information, contact the numbers above or Sylvia at AIDS Resource Center of WI at 1-800-675-9400 or 920-437-7400.
- Central Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance, Inc.** PO Box 390, Steven's Point, WI 54481. For more information, you can phone (715) 592-6245 and then enter voicemail #5920200 when prompted or visit us online at www.racwinc.org or email: racwinc@hotmail.com.
- GLBT Partnership:** Lesbian/gay teen support group in Appleton & Green Bay. Call 920-731-4847.
- The Lavender Salon:** Lesbian/gay reading group meets fourth Sunday of the month. Call Michael Nitz at 920-738-0497. The Salon's website is: www.lavendersalon.org
- Lawrence University PRIDE:** Meets every Thursday at 9:00pm PM in the Diversity Center. Contact: PRIDE, Diversity Center, 207 S. Meade St., Appleton, WI 54911; phone: 920-832-7051 – e-mail: www.lawrence.edu/org/pride
- PFLAG Appleton/ Fox Cities:** Meets third Tuesday of the month. For more info, write PFLAG, P.O. Box 9178, Appleton, WI 54911-9178; Helpline assistance phone is 920/735-1025.
- PFLAG of Door County:** Meets third Sunday of the month, Hope Church at 12th and Michigan Streets, Sturgeon Bay, WI. Contact Sandy at 920-743-8146.
- Positive Voice Education Committee:** Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. Working for safer schools. Contact: Kathy Leadley or Paul "Cricket" Jacob at: 437-7400 or at paul.jacob@arcw.org Meetings variable; announced in newsletter. You do not have to be a teacher to become a member—you need only care for all our schoolchildren's well being.
- Preble Park Presbyterian Church:** Open and Accepting. Sunday Service at 10:15am, 607 Ravenswood Drive, Green Bay, WI. Phone: 920-468-7125.
- Rainbow Over Wisconsin, Inc.:** Northeast Wisconsin charitable foundation. For more info., contact Mark at 920-433-9821.
- Sheboygan Lesbian and Gay Potluck-** Meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at 6pm at Unity Church of Sheboygan 2409 N. 8th street. Call 920-452-5447 for more information. Spend a Saturday evening making new friends, eating good food, having good conversation and playing cards, board games, etc. (over 18 years old please)

Toward Community: Unity In Diversity Racial/ethnic unity group supportive of gay rights. Meets third Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. on odd months, 6:00 p.m. on even months, at the Appleton Public Schools Community Room, Avenue Mall, Appleton. Contact Chairperson: Rev. Roger Bertschausen, (920) 731-0849.

Union Congregational Church-UCC: Open and Affirming . Sunday Service at 10am, 716 S Madison Ave, Green Bay, WI. 920-437-9266.

Unitarian/Universalist Fellowship: Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship: Services at 4:30 PM Saturday, and 9:00 and 11:00 AM on Sundays, September through May, and at 9:00 AM June through August. We are a congregation that welcomes all people and invite them to come as they are. Rev Roger Bertschausen, 2600 E. Philip Lane, Appleton, WI: 920-731-0849.

Womyn's Fox Valley Potluck/Social Group. 920-727-1444.

2004-2005 POSITIVE VOICE Nomination and Volunteer Form

Please fill in this form if you are interested in participating on the **POSITIVE VOICE** board or a committee. You can either nominate yourself or another person (with their permission) for a position on the board. **You must be an active member of POSITIVE VOICE to be on the board or to make a nomination for the board.** Elections will be held at the Annual Membership dinner meeting on Friday evening at 6:30pm, May 21, 2004 at Liberty Hall, Kimberly, WI. You must be present to vote, though you do not have to be present to be a board candidate.

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

- I am interested in working on the **POSITIVE VOICE** board
- I wish to nominate this person as a candidate for the **POSITIVE VOICE** board
(nominator's name: _____)
- I am interested in volunteering to work on a **POSITIVE VOICE** committee
 - Membership/fundraising/grant writing
 - Newsletter
 - Program Planning
 - Hospitality
 - Education

**Return Form to POSITIVE VOICE, INC. PO Box 1381, Green Bay, WI 54305-1381 or
send an e-mail with your nomination/volunteer status to pnnew4gblt@aol.com
This is not an election ballot.**

✂-----



**ST. PATTY'S DAY WISHES
AND SHAMROCKS SO GREEN
TO THE BEST MEMBERSHIP
WE HAVE EVER SEEN!**

**(THESE POEMS MAY HURT THE EAR,
BUT THE INTENT IS SINCERE!)**

**POSITIVE VOICE
PO Box 1381
GREEN BAY, WI 54305-1381
ADDRESS FORWARDING REQUESTED**