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# PositiveVOICE, Inc. News

## October Fall is the seasons for events! Get involved!

### Oppose Amendment If You Oppose Discrimination

This editorial was first printed in the Green Bay Press Gazette last November. It is hard to believe that the amendment has gotten so far. Yet, the editorial, in its entirety, is still so relevant almost a year later. Read on...

By Mike Fitzpatrick

Republicans in the Wisconsin Legislature recently resumed their efforts to pass an amendment to our state's Constitution that they claim will protect the institution of marriage. You could be voting on this amendment in less than a year.

The so-called Wisconsin Marriage Amendment reads as follows: "Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized in this state."

I am asking you to tell your legislators not to approve this measure in the coming weeks. Should it pass, however, I am asking you to vote no on the likely November 2006 referendum.

Those of you who recognize me

might ask why I find this issue important. I am a single, gay man without a dinner date, no less a marriage prospect on my calendar. But the language of this proposed amendment simply goes too far and will hurt real people. People I know.

First, the amendment is unnecessary. Whether this amendment passes or fails, current Wisconsin law has a heterosexual "man and wife" definition of marriage that predates all the so-called "Defense of Marriage" nonsense of the last decade.

Moreover, our state's Supreme Court has sustained that law's definition of marriage. The 1994 "Angel Lace" ruling involved a Green Bay lesbian couple. Gay marriage simply won't happen here unless our legislators change the laws.

Secondly, gay and lesbian families are being hurt now by their inability to have their committed, long-term relationships legally recognized. This amendment would place an additional barrier in the way of any laws that might grant civil unions or other secular recognition of domestic partnerships.

Even with thousands of dollars worth of privately drafted legal documents, simple benefits granted by civil recognition of same-sex unions, such as bereavement leave, health insurance

under one policy for the household or family memberships, are typically impossible to obtain.

Things go from bad to worse should someone die. In my 20-plus years of work as an HIV/AIDS case manager, I have dealt with a number of horrors happening to surviving halves of gay and other unmarried couples by "in-laws" who they believed were loving and supportive of their relationships.

In one case, a supposedly grieving mother left the graveside internment to join pre-arranged movers to empty the possessions of her late son's home. One of those items was a baby grand piano given as an anniversary gift to his surviving partner in her presence five years earlier. The deceased's will predate the gift.

Outside of my work life, I know friends with similar stories. One friend came home from work to find the locks had been changed by his partner's children on the home he shared with his late partner, who had died suddenly. It took an intervention with attorneys for the friend to obtain his own checkbook and credit cards.

Thirdly, the vague language of the amendment's second sentence has the potential to impact far more than keeping gay and lesbian couples from obtaining any legal recognition of their relationships. In states that have

passed amendments with such similar language — Ohio and Michigan to name two — domestic violence laws have been ruled inapplicable and public sector domestic partner benefits have been challenged in court.

Given that a 2004 Business Week research report documented that 49.6 percent of all adults in the United States live in unmarried relationships, the impact could be significant. The vague language of the proposed amendment simply goes too far.

Why write such an amendment? Supporters of the amendment claim they have only the purest of intentions. Given the way we change our Constitution, if that were true, this issue could have been resolved nine months ago, during the Spring 2005 elections.

Assembly speaker and 8th Congressional District Republican candidate John Gard made his intentions clear in his June 2, 2005 letter to Wisconsin's lead supporter of the marriage amendment, Julaine Appling of the Family Research Institute of Wisconsin. Gard wrote: "The best time to bring this issue before the voters is when we have the potential for high voter turnout," noting the November 2006 election would be the next such vote.

Political junkies have been quick to note that the November 2006 election also will determine who will be the next governor in Wisconsin and who will go to Washington to represent the 8th Congressional District in an open race for that seat.

Finally, the rhetoric about marriage professed by the amendment's supporters masks the true perversion that will occur if this amendment becomes part of our state's Constitution: the writing of discrimination against all unmarried couples, gay or straight, into a document that currently defines

our rights as citizens of Wisconsin. No matter what your views about gay marriage, if you oppose discrimination, you should oppose the so-called Wisconsin Marriage Amendment.

*Mike Fitzpatrick is a Green Bay resident and a member of the board of directors of Action Wisconsin, the statewide civil rights organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families. You can reach him at [mike.fitzpatrick@arcw.org](mailto:mike.fitzpatrick@arcw.org).*

### AIDS Walk Wisconsin

Leave the driving to us and take the bus to AIDS Walk Wisconsin on Saturday, September 30th. AIDS Walk Wisconsin is proud to partner with Lamers Bus Lines and Van Galder Bus Company to provide complimentary bus service from 16 locations around Wisconsin. Lean back and enjoy the ride to Milwaukee for the 17th annual AIDS Walk Wisconsin. Visit <http://www.aidswalkwis.org> for departure times and locations.

You must be a registered walker to take advantage of the complimentary bus service. If you are not registered, would like more information on AIDS Walk Wisconsin, or want a list of sponsors, visit the website.

Join our Honorary Chair, BD Wong and thousands of people from around Wisconsin for AIDS Walk Wisconsin and help support medical care, prevention programs, and social services for people battling HIV and AIDS in every corner of our state.



### 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 view points 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 PV Board of Directors.

### Newsletter Ad Rates

Prices are for three months. Sizes are only approximate:

- 1/8 page (business card 4.25x 2.75) is \$15.00
- 1/4 page (4.25x5.5) is \$25.00
- 1/2 page (4.25x11 or 8.5x5.5) is \$40.00
- Full page (8.5x11) is \$70.00

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 PV, PO Box 1381, Green Bay, WI 54305-1381. We can also be reached by email at [info@pvinc.org](mailto:info@pvinc.org).

### PV Board of Directors

President: Dennis Krenn, Vice President: Susan Allen, Treasurer: Lloyd Schaefer, Secretary: Michael Nitz.  
Members: Jennifer, Kathy F., Kathy L., Lynn, Marty and Dale.  
Alternate: Mark, Steve and Mary Kay

## **Mourning the Loss of Former Texas Gov. Ann Richards**

We lost a true advocate of civil rights for all people with the passing of Ann Richards, former governor of Texas. She lost her bid for a second term as Texas governor in 1994 to current President George Bush. A number of organizations and web posts honored her words of memorial and interesting perspectives.

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese issued the following statement about the passing of former Texas Gov. Ann Richards, "No one did more to lift up so many Americans through her words and her work. Governor Richards was an American treasure whose leadership, wit and compassion were equaled only by her lifetime commitment to helping women; people of color; and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people share fully in the American dream.

"She forever changed the face of Texas and of Texas government, appointing more openly gay people to office than any governor before her. We mourn the loss of a friend — a friend who understood that all of us have something to contribute and that Texas and America are stronger when we are united as a people."

### **Octoberfest**

Octoberfest in downtown Appleton has nearly arrived. On Saturday, September 30th, downtown Appleton comes alive! Over 400 vendor and exhibitor stands serving a wide variety of ethnic and traditional foods, one of a kind arts and crafts, and variety of other items you won't find anywhere else.

PFLAG, Positive Voice, and Angels of Hope MCC will be selling our famous frozen chocolate covered cheesecake on a stick. Positive Voice

and PFLAG have joined forces for many years to staff a food booth in order to raise funds for the respective organizations.

For more information about the Octoberfest celebration, visit: <http://www.octoberfestonline.org/index.htm>

### **Ninth Annual Foods of All Nations**

The Ninth Annual Foods of All Nations will be held on Saturday, September 23rd at the corner of Oneida St. and Washington St. in downtown Appleton from 2 - 6 pm, with food served from 3 - 6. Advanced purchase tickets are \$8. Children are \$5.

### **Get the Word Out!**

We are sure everyone is getting information from Fair Wisconsin about the proposed amendment, but in case you are not, here you go!

The November vote on the ban just keeps getting closer and closer. In order to beat the ban we need your help and the help of your friends and family this Saturday, Sunday or Tuesday. Please consider taking some time out of your busy lives this weekend to help Wisconsin do the right thing and make history. We are so close to being the first state ever to defeat one of these hurtful amendments.

For those of you who have canvassed in the past, could you take a couple of hours and make it back?

For those who have been hesitating to canvass, c'mon, give it a try! It's by far the most important thing we can do. It's satisfying too. There are 30 minutes of training and role plays to get comfortable. Everyone goes out in pairs. Bring friends and try it together!

This Past week we knocked on nearly 1,000 doors. Great job to all who helped make that possible either by doing doors themselves, making calls or getting data into the computer. This week I would like to see that number be at least 1,750. I know this is possible and I know that together we can do something special on November 7th.

We have 50 days left. We are entering into a new stage in the campaign and we are expecting our opposition to do the same, we should all expect to see them soon. We need all of you to continue the support you have given thus far and we need you to take it up to the next level.

Saturday, 10 am-2 pm, Harmony Cafe, 124 N. Oneida Street

Sunday, 11 am-3 pm, Brewed Awakening Cafe, 107 E. College Avenue

Tuesday, 5:15-8:45 pm, Harmony Cafe, 124 N. Oneida Street

Sign up online at <http://www.fairwisconsin.org/calendar/foxvalley/>

### **FORGE Forward 2007 Conference**

If you plan to attend the FORGE Forward 2007 Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on March 29 – April 1, 2007, now is the time to send in your registration!

Early registration rates -- \$125 for the full 2-1/2 day conference or \$115 per full-day Intensive – are only available on registrations postmarked by September 30, 2006. (Steep discounts are available for those attending both the conference and one or two Intensives.) After that, registration rates rise to the regular level.

The FORGE Forward 2007 Conference is the first national female-to-

male transgender spectrum and SOFFA (Significant Others, Friends, Family, and Allies) conference to be held in the U.S. Heartland. The Conference, whose theme is "Honoring Our Complexities," features more than 75 concurrent workshops covering everything from the basics to the cutting edge, exhibits by organizations and businesses catering to trans people and SOFFAs, medical consultations, a hospitality suite, no-host receptions, and much, much more. Reflecting our community's many diverse identities and needs, accessibility features of the Conference include childcare, American Sign Language interpretation, free parking or shuttle from the airport, 12-step meetings, and limited registration scholarships for low-income attendees (some services require pre-registration). Featured keynote speakers and entertainers include S. Bear Bergman, Eli Clare, Imani Henry, Jay Sennett, Dean Spade, Susan Stryker, and Willy Wilkinson.

Eight full-day, pre-Conference Intensives are also available for those who want to dig deeply into any of the following topics:

- > Supporting Gender-Variant Children, Youth, and their Families (Reid Vanderburgh and Andrew Forshee)
- > HIV Prevention/Safer Sex for FTMs+ and Mental Health Providers (Brenda Coley, Laura Gutnecht, Molly Herrmann, Gary Hollander, Hector Torres)
- > Survivor-Centered Advocacy for Trans Survivors of Violence (Diana Courvant)
- > Creative Spirituality for the Third Gender Tribe (Raven Caldera)
- > Building Multi-Racial, Multi-Gender, Anti-Racist, Anti-Capitalist Trans-Organizations, Coalitions and Movements (Dean Spade and staff of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project)
- > Beyond the Binary: Language, Longing, and Legitimacy (Shane Whalley and Heather Davies)
- > Understanding the FTM Experience: 101 for Providers (Reid Vanderburgh and lore m. dickey)
- > Exploring the Expansiveness of Femme (TBA)

In addition, a pre-Conference extended caucus, "Breaking Isolation, Building Community: A Gathering for Disabled and Deaf People and Our Allies," will be facilitated by Eli

Clare and Sebastian Margaret on Friday, March 30. Pre-registrants for this caucus, any Intensive or the Conference itself will also receive free entrance to a plenary-style presentation by Ben Singer, "From the Medical Gaze to Sublime Mutations: The Ethics of Re-viewing Nonstandard Body Images," on Thursday, March 29, and to a pre-Conference keynote by Minnie Bruce Pratt on Friday, March 30.

Visit the website at [www.forge-forward.org/conference](http://www.forge-forward.org/conference) to read about our presenters, add-on meal events, and other Conference plans, or to get more details on available volunteer jobs!

**Correction: Women's Michigan Music Festival**

In PV's last newsletter we wrote that the Music Festival was allowing all women into the festival's grounds. That has since been refuted.

Seeking to correct misinformation widely distributed by "Camp Trans" organizers, Michigan Womyn's Music Festival founder and producer Lisa Vogel released the following clarification:

**Become a Member of Positive Voice or Renew your Membership:**

Thinking about becoming a member of *Northeast Wisconsin's largest GLBT organization* or renewing your annual membership? Memberships are in effect for one year from payment date, \$25 for individuals and \$35 for families. There is a special full-time student membership available for \$10 per year. Members receive the **PV** Inc. News, discounts on **PV** events and help support our organization in reaching our goals and enriching our lives. Use the following coupon to send in your membership fee. Remember that **additional donations are always welcome** to help support our work to fulfill our mission statement. THANK YOU!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional Information:  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Should we mail the newsletter in a private envelope?  
 Circle one:  
 Yes  
 No  
 Send via email

\_\_\_ I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ for my individual PV Membership for one year (commences with payment date).

\_\_\_ We are enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ for our family PV Membership for one year (commences with payment date).

\_\_\_ Enclosed is an additional amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help support the mission statement of Positive Voice.

**Total Amount Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_** (make checks payable to Positive Voice, Inc.)

**You can also donate and/or become a member or renew your membership online at [www.PVinc.org](http://www.PVinc.org)!**

“Since 1976, the Michigan Womyn’s Music Festival has been created by and for womyn-born womyn, that is, womyn who were born as and have lived their entire life experience as womyn. Despite claims to the contrary by Camp Trans organizers, the Festival remains a rare and precious space intended for womyn-born womyn.”

### **Sexual Health Discussion Group for Gender Diverse People**

A sexual health discussion group for gender diverse people (including but not limited to self-identified gender queers, transsexuals, drag king/queens, FTM, MTF, crossdressers, and intersex) will start at OutReach, Madison & south-central Wisconsin’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community center and safe space (600 Williamson St.) this October. The six week group will cover a wide variety of topical matter related to gender self-expression, body imagery, discrimination issues, health care barriers/

resources, and the sexual decision-making process. Sessions will be two hours in length and meet once a week on Saturday at 1 pm. Food will be provided, and an attendance allowance for consistent participation will also be given at the end of the six-week session.

A similar six-week cycle was very well received last fall here at the agency. When asked what they liked most about the group, participants commented on the friendly, open atmosphere and the knowledge they gained on sexual health issues like STD’s and HIV/AIDS.

If you have interest in the group or would like more information about it, please leave a message for Renee at 255-8582 or e-mail her at [madcityrenee@tds.net](mailto:madcityrenee@tds.net) or [programs@outreachinc.com](mailto:programs@outreachinc.com).

### **PFLAG Regional Conference**

PFLAG’s Regional Conference for 2006 is titled *Heartland in Action 2006*. Join

hundreds of activists and allies from the Midwest region to move equality forward!

From November 3-4 in Chicago, IL you will:

- Participate in workshops on the critical issues facing the GLBT community and its allies.
- Network with PFLAGers from around the region and across the country.
- Attend PFLAG’s Annual Meeting to receive firsthand reports from National President Samuel Thoron and Executive Director Jody Huckaby.

Be there for the unveiling of:

- Straight for Equality, PFLAG’s dynamic new initiative to increase straight support throughout the country
- Faith for All Families, PFLAG’s task force for dialogue and change within communities of faith.

For more information, go to: [http://pflag.org/2006\\_Conference\\_Landing.2006\\_conference.0.html](http://pflag.org/2006_Conference_Landing.2006_conference.0.html)



**Are you lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender and unsafe in your relationship?  
Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs is here to support you and offer help.**



### **Are you dating or living with someone who**

- o Is jealous and possessive, doesn’t like you being with your friends, checks up on you, follows you, won’t accept breaking up?
- o Scares you? Threatens you or uses or owns weapons?
- o Calls you names, humiliates, shames or degrades you?
- o Blames you for the abuse by saying that you provoked it or led him/her on?
- o Use your credit cards without permission? Controls your money?
- o Threatens to out you to friends, family or coworkers?
- o Hits, pushes, chokes, restrains, kicks or otherwise physically abuses you?

You are not alone. No one deserves to be abused. If you or someone you know is being abused, Harbor House is here help. Call our 24-hour help line. We are here to listen. We respect your privacy and support you. Conversations are completely confidential. We can talk to you about how to keep safe.

### **CALL OUR 24-HOUR HELP LINE**

**920-832-1666 – Fox Cities (Voice/TTY)  
920-849-7819 – Chilton/Calumet County  
800-970-1171 – Toll-Free (Voice/TTY)**

## **DOMESTIC ABUSE – It does happen in our community**

## Calendar of Events – 2006

### Meeting & Event Calendar:

**Thursday Evenings: Drop In Night & Meet and Greet Night:** 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Positive Voice, 502 Greene Avenue, Green Bay, WI. All are welcome. Free Refreshments. Contact PV for info at [info@pvinc.org](mailto:info@pvinc.org) or 920-435-4404 and leave a message.

**4th Monday of Every Month: Transgender Transformation Group:** Harmony Café's Green Room, 6 - 8 p.m.

**Saturday, September 23: 9th Annual Food of Nations:** Corner of Oneida Street and Washington Street in downtown Appleton from 2 - 6 p.m., food will be served from 3 - 6. Tickets will be sold at the event for \$10.

**Saturday, September 30: Appleton's Octoberfest:** PFLAG and Positive Voice continue the tradition of joining forces to sell Frozen Chocolate Covered Cheesecake on a stick to raise monies for our respective organizations.

**Saturday, October 28: PV Movie Night Rocky Horror Picture Show:** 7:00 p.m., PV office, 502 Greene Avenue.

**Tuesday, November 7: BE SURE TO VOTE!**

**Thursday, November 9: PV Discussion Night:** 6 - 9 p.m., PV office, "Election Wrap-Up - Where do we go from Here?"

**Saturday, December 2: PV Holiday Dinner:** Eagles Nest Supper Club. Mark your calendars now!

**Sunday, December 31: PV New Year's Eve Party:** Liberty Hall. More information to follow.

### 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. In Green Bay, Sunday 9:30am and Wednesday 6:30pm at Angels of Hope-MCC; Mondays 8:00pm at UWGB Campus Ecumenical Center. For more information, call 920-336-2868 or 920-954-9169.

**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 2600 E. Phillip Lane off of the Calumet Exit (441) . Call 920-991-0128.

**AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) Green Bay:** 445 S. Adams 920-437-7400 or 800-675-9400. Appleton: 103 E. Washington 920-733-2068 or 800-773-2068.

**Fair Wisconsin:** Statewide organization working to end GLBT discrimination in our state. Visit [www.fairwisconsin.com/](http://www.fairwisconsin.com/)

**GLBT Partnership:** Lesbian teen support group in Appleton & Green Bay. Call 920-731-4847.

**Harmony Café:** For the extensive listing of Upcoming Events at Harmony Café, check the website <http://www.focol.org/harmonycafe/>

**The Lavender Salon:** Lesbian reading group meets fourth Sunday of the month. Call Michael Nitz at 920-738-0497. The Salon's website is: [www.lavendersalon.org](http://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](http://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 Dale Winkler. Meetings variable; see PV website. 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. odd months; 6:30 p.m. even months at the Harmony Café. Contact number is 731-6602 ext. 1242.

**Union Congregational Church-UCC:** Open and Affirming . Sun 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.

**UWGB Votes NO!** A grassroots coalition of UWGB students and organizations that oppose the constitutional amendment banning marriage for lesbian & gay couples. For information please contact Mark Zirbel at [zirbmm09@uwgb.edu](mailto:zirbmm09@uwgb.edu) or visit - [www.myspace.com/fair\\_uwgb](http://www.myspace.com/fair_uwgb)

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

Please send updates or corrections to [info@pvinc.org](mailto:info@pvinc.org) – more extensive listings on website [www.pvinc.org](http://www.pvinc.org).



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**ADDRESS FORWARDING REQUESTED**