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\* Events at PV's Offices, Such as Drop-In-Night, Have Been Postponed Until After the Election. See [www.PVinc.org](http://www.PVinc.org) for more information



# PositiveVOICE, Inc. News

## November

Vote 'No' on the Constitutional Amendment on Nov. 7

### Day of Silence, Night of Noise!

Faith in Action Against the Amendment - an interfaith group of spiritual people presents: Day of Silence, Night of Noise.

To show our solidarity with those whose rights will be constitutionally eliminated by the Civil Unions and Marriage Ban members will spend the day being silent. You don't have to participate in being silent during the day to attend this rally. We need you to come and show your support! At 6:00 on Thursday, October 19 at the Houdini Plaza in downtown Appleton, we'll gather to vocalize our support. This will be an interfaith service which will include sharing Day of Silence experiences as well as inspirational messages from faith leaders, songs, a candle lighting and a reading by Ellen Kort. (In the event of bad weather, we will move inside to the City Center Plaza). From there, those interested in more fun and fellowship, we will journey the short distance over to Harmony Cafe (124 N. Oneida Street) at 7:00 p.m. for music, sharing and Open Mic.

If you are interested in sharing the day of silence - information packets are available at the Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, United Church of Christ, Appleton and Harmony Cafe.



### Faith in Action Against the Amendment

On November 7, Wisconsin Voters will decide whether or not to amend the state constitution.

What is the proposed amendment on civil unions and marriage?

The proposed amendment to the Wisconsin constitution reads: *"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."*

Faith in Action Against the Amendment consists of individuals and congregations of diverse faiths in the Fox Cities. We are committed to educating the public about the proposed amendment on civil unions and marriage and its consequences.

#### WHY YOUR VOTE MATTERS

What does the proposed amendment mean for Wisconsin?

- **It writes discrimination into the state constitution**, going against Wisconsin's rich tradition of equality and fairness

- **It endangers rights for households in domestic partnerships, gay and straight, young and old**, including healthcare, employment, and retirement benefits, and access to medical and financial information.

- **It bans the possibility of civil unions**, even though a majority of Wisconsinites supports them.

- **It duplicates a law that already de-**

**nies marriage rights for same-sex couples**, further hurting families in our state that have taken on the responsibilities of marriage.

- **It limits Wisconsin's economic future**, discouraging diversity and making it hard to attract creative, talented workers.

#### VOTING NO ON NOVEMBER 7 --

Alliance of Baptists, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Jewish Committee, Milwaukee, Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, Christians for Equality, Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups, Dignity, USA (Catholic), First Presbyterian Church, Oshkosh, Former Wisconsin Governors, Fox Valley Unitarian Universalists Fellowship, Appleton, GeoToys LLC, Greater Milwaukee Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), Individual Rights & Responsibilities Section-Wisconsin Bar Association, Integrity, USA (Episcopal), John Knox Presbytery, La Crosse Area Synod of the ELCA, League of Women Voters of WI, Madison Jewish Community Council, Metropolitan Community Churches, Milwaukee Labor Counsel, Milwaukee Presbytery, Public Interest Law Section-WI Bar Association, DEIU Local 1199W, South Central WI Synod of ELCA, Tikken Community of Spiritual Progressives, Urban League of Greater Madison, Winnebago Presbytery, Wisconsin Christian Alliance for Progress, Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, WI Conference United Church of Christ, Wisconsin Jewish Conference, Wisconsin Medical Society, Wisconsin State AFL-CIO, Wisconsin United Methodist Conference.

## Argentina Does It... What Can't The United States?

Argentina Announces Plans to Repeal Military Ban on Gays.

WASHINGTON, DC – The government of Argentina has announced that it plans to repeal its ban on gay military personnel, according to recent news reports, making it the second country in South America, following Colombia, to prohibit discrimination in its armed forces. Argentina's government plans to modernize its code of military justice which, among other changes, will no longer prohibit same-sex relationships among personnel in its armed forces. "The ban was nonsense," said Colonel Judge Advocate Manual Lozano. "It's a matter of people's private lives."

"The United States is becoming increasingly isolated in its prohibition on gays serving in the military," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN). "From Israel to South Africa to Argentina, countries are recognizing that banning qualified service members only hurts their readiness. Eva Peron once observed that 'shadows cannot see themselves in the mirror of the sun.' Today, in her country, gay patriots are emerging from the shadows and being recognized for their dedication and service."

Argentina joins a growing list of at least 25 nations that no longer exclude openly gay service personnel. American military allies, including Great Britain, Canada and Australia, have lifted their bans on open service. Membership in the European Union requires nations to abolish any prohibitions on service by gays. Openly gay personnel from allied nations are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, alongside American troops.

Congressional legislation to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the U.S. ban on openly lesbian, gay and bisexual service members, is currently supported by 119 bi-partisan Members of Congress. For more information, visit [www.sldn.org](http://www.sldn.org).

## 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

## Rainbow Over Wisconsin Event

Rainbow Over Wisconsin is planning it's 3rd Annual "Evening With Rainbow Over Wisconsin" Dinner, Auction, Show & Dance on November 18 at Liberty Hall In Kimberly (Appleton area).

Invitations to last year's attendees have already gone out. Anyone wishing to take a seat at the Positive Voice Table should indicate such on their invitation when returning it with your check to ROW.

If you have questions about the planned event, more information should be made soon at the ROW website <http://www.rainbowoverwisconsin.org/> or by contacting [rainbowoverwi@athenet.net](mailto:rainbowoverwi@athenet.net)

Information on ROW as found on their website:

Founded following the success of the "Alive With Pride 95" gay pride event by the region's tavern keepers, Rainbow Over Wisconsin (ROW) has grown from a group that had served to coordinate bar benefit shows to a non-profit, tax-exempt community foundation whose members include area business owners, LGBT activists and people who simply want to make northeast Wisconsin's gay community the best it can be.

Like its sister organizations - Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation and Madison's New Harvest - ROW financially assists the work of local and regional groups serving the LGBT community in central, eastern and northeast Wisconsin through its Community Enrichment Fund grant program. In the last eight years, Rainbow Over WI has funded more than 45 projects developed by over two dozen groups.

## 150 Years of GLBT History

1855 - Walt Whitman publishes the first edition of *Leaves of Grass*

1869 - The term "homosexuality" appears in print for the first time in a German pamphlet

1897 - In Germany, Scientific Humanitarian Committee is founded, the world's first organization dedicated to ending legal and social oppression of gays

## 150 Years of GLBT History (con't)

1920's - "Gay" comes into use in reference to homosexuals

1928 - Radclyffe Hall's *The Well of Loneliness*, the first lesbian novel, is published in the U.S.

1933 - Nazis disband the Scientific Humanitarian Committee

1937-38 - Nazis send homosexuals to concentration camps, forcing them to wear an identifying pink triangle badge

1956 - James Baldwin publishes *Giovanni's Room*, a gay-themed novel

1957 - In the UK, the Wolfenden Report's recommendation of decriminalization of homosexual acts for consenting adults causes public controversy

1958 - Barbara Gittings founds the NY chapter of the lesbian organization Daughters of Bilitis

1961 - Illinois is the first U.S. state to decriminalize homosexuality

1963 - Bayard Rustin coordinates African-American civil rights March on Washington

First gay rights demonstration takes place in New York, protesting discrimination in the military

1965-69 - Annual gay civil rights demonstrations at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, by Barbara Gittings and others

1968 - The Metropolitan Community Church founded in Los Angeles

1969 - Sylvia Rivera and others participate in the Stonewall Uprising in NYC

1970 - First gay pride marches in the U.S. commemorate Stonewall

1971 - Frank Kameny becomes the first openly gay candidate for U.S. Congress

1973 - American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from its list of mental disorders

1975 - Sgt. Leonard Matlovich sues the Air Force for discharging him. First national gay rights legislation bill introduced in U.S. Congress

1979 - First national gay rights March on

Washington attracts more than 100,000

1980 - Publication of John Boswell's book *Christianity, Social Tolerance, and Homosexuality*

1981 - Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) founded by Larry Kramer and others

Martina Navratilova comes out

1985 - Fr. Mychal Judge founds St. Francis AIDS Ministry

1987 - Representative Barney Frank comes out

Larry Kramer founds ACT UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power)

1989 - Denmark becomes the first country to legally recognize same-sex partnerships

1992 - Elton John AIDS Foundation started

1994 - Tim Gill founds the Gill Foundation

1996 - Representative Jim Kolbe comes out

1997 - Ellen DeGeneres outs herself and her sitcom character on primetime tv

1998 - Gay student Matthew Shepard is killed in Wyoming

1999 - Jim Hormel is appointed the first openly gay U.S. ambassador

Phill Wilson founds the Black AIDS Institute

2001 - Father Mychal Judge dies at the World Trade Center

Lowell Selvin leads formation of PlanetOut Inc.

Germany enacts domestic partnership legislation, with leadership from Volker Beck

2004 - Lupe Valdez elected Sheriff of Dallas County, Texas

2005 - Sheryl Swoopes comes out

2006 - First gay pride march in Moscow ends in violence, including injury and arrest of Volker Beck

## Make the Media Your Microphone

It's time to make your voice heard in your local media.

Over the past weeks and months, we've been working hard to get our message in the media. In the next 20+ days, we need your help to keep it there.

Please help Fair Wisconsin submit an avalanche of letters to the editor to your hometown newspapers.

Throughout the last two years, Fair Wisconsin has been able to garner more and more media coverage and shape the debate around the civil unions and marriage ban. We've strengthened our message around the state through the press and now see well over 50 unique hits of coverage every week.

But that's not enough.

It's time to turn the volume up everywhere we can. This means saturating daily and weekly newspapers with letters to the editor from local people who urge their communities to vote no. We need to take every opportunity we've got to make sure Wisconsinites get out to vote no on November 7.

Take a few minutes to send a letter to the editor to your local paper. Fair Wisconsin has compiled all the resources you'll need here: <http://www.fairwisconsin.com/write>

Tell Wisconsin voters to stand up for fairness and vote NO on November 7.



**Consider Amendment "Side Effects" Before Voting**

The following article appeared in the *Bay Business Journal*.

About 200 years ago, Brown County was embroiled in a debate over the meaning and validity of marriage. For the previous 100 or so years, Europeans had married and settled here, particularly after 1765. Many times these marriages were between Europeans and Native Americans. Since ministers and priests were in short supply locally, these marriages generally were not documented. Doing that usually required paddling in a canoe from Green Bay to Mackinaw or Quebec and back again. Some of my ancestors did that—some did not.

When the United States took control of Brown County after the War of 1812, new settlers arrived. Much of the prime land was occupied by families with marriages that were not necessarily recognized by the new government. The new government went about enforcing its marriage laws. That seemed simple and appropriate. However, like most issues where government gets actively involved in people's lives, not all the motives or results were pure. Land, then as now, passed between husband and wife and then to children. The result of not being

legally married was that if the husband died, the land could not have "legally" transferred because there was no wife. As to children, since there were no "legitimate" children, the land "escheated" back to the government. There it was sold to others, sometimes to the people who had raised the issue of invalid marriages.

We do not need to examine motives or morality to take away lessons from our own relatively recent history. There are several. First, marriage provided a stable basis for society and, accordingly, was given special legal status. But, the way the law was manipulated or implemented had either intended or unintended consequences that disrupted peoples lives, and provided a brisk business for the attorneys of that time.

Oddly (or not), we dealing with a similar issue today. On November 7, Brown County voters, and all Wisconsin Voters, are being asked to vote "yes" or "no" on a proposed constitutional amendment. If approved, the following language will be added to the Wisconsin Constitution:

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.

Much has been and will be written about this amendment. Emotions run high with some of those for and against the amendment. There is significant debate about the effect. Everyone has their own morals and I will not presume to provide any guidance on that aspect. The issue raised here for consideration is the proposed amendment's practical, legal, and economic impact.

The proposed amendment's first sentence is clear and unambiguous. It is already the law in the State of Wisconsin. The amendment would give it constitutional protection.

The second sentence, however, is less clear. While some argue that it is clear, similar enactments in other states have created ongoing and expensive litigation. Government, business, and individuals are spending money on attorneys, as well as their time, in court arguing about the every day implications. Some examples are whether contracts between employers and their employees providing benefits that an employer has agreed to provide, and that employees accepted, are now not "valid." Or, are some agreements entered into between any two people now invalid?

**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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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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)!**

Predicting what litigants and courts will do is risky business. The outcome is uncertain. What is certain is that there will be court cases, likely a number of them. While ongoing extensive and expensive litigation may be good for some lawyers, it is generally not a benefit to society when the money and time could be spent on other activities or benefits.

From a business perspective, the following must be considered. Will passing this constitutional amendment, as currently written, provide the desired benefit without an excessive cost? The cost will include litigation—whatever the ultimate conclusion. Will it be more government intervention into private agreements between employers and their employees? Will it be used as government intervention into agreements made between individuals? Will it deter people and business from moving to Wisconsin because it will be viewed as just another example of intrusive unnecessary government regulation of life?

None of us knows the answers to these questions. That is why neither the New North nor the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce has taken a position on the proposed amendment. That is appropriate. Both groups support the exploration of ideas and public debate. There likely will be members of both organizations voting for and against the amendment. Each individual, however, must carefully consider and decide what they believe are the answers to these questions, and make their judgment. The impact on individual human lives will be real.

For myself, after careful consideration, because of the unnecessary and troubling uncertainty of the second sentence, I will vote “no.” As an individual attorney, I will likely be personally better off if the amendment passes. Looking at the bigger picture, however, creating more dissension and diverting government, business, and individual resources into fighting, rather than for economic benefit, is a cost that outweighs the benefit. In addition,

more perceived government intervention into business, whether real or not, will not help attract new business, capital, and talent to Wisconsin. The first sentence—already Wisconsin Law—is the benefit. The second sentence is pure unnecessary cost.

Looking at history for its hard earned lessons, similar good intentions were patently misused here less than 200 years ago to take individuals’ property and rights. I cannot vote for something that may permit government here to do that again—even with the best of intentions. On November 8, we will know the collective judgment.

*Timothy F. Nixon, is an attorney and serves as Chair of the Green Bay Area Chamber Of Commerce Diversity Committee*



**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**

- Is jealous and possessive, doesn't like you being with your friends, checks up on you, follows you, won't accept breaking up?
- Scares you? Threatens you or uses or owns weapons?
- Calls you names, humiliates, shames or degrades you?
- Blames you for the abuse by saying that you provoked it or led him/her on?
- Use your credit cards without permission? Controls your money?
- Threatens to out you to friends, family or coworkers?
- 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:** Postponed until after November 7. Contact PV for info at [info@pvinc.org](mailto:info@pvinc.org) or 920-435-4404 and leave a message.

**Saturday, October 28: PV Movie Night Rocky Horror Picture Show:** Postponed.

**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/gay 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/gay 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).



**Positive Voice**  
**PO Box 1381**  
**Green Bay, WI 54305-1381**

**ADDRESS FORWARDING REQUESTED**