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PositiveVOICE, Inc. News

November

Landmark, Precedent Setting GLBTQ Legislation Moves Through the Political Labyrinth

By: Kathleen Leadley

The U.S. Senate voted to pass the Matthew Shepard Act, which updates and expands the federal hate crimes laws to include bias motivated violence based on a victim's sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, and disability, and provides new resources and tools to assist local law enforcement in prosecuting vicious crimes.

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese said "Congress has taken an historic step forward and moved our country closer to the realization that all Americans, including the GLBT community, are part of the fabric of our nation. The new leadership in Congress fully understands that for too long our community has been terrorized by hate violence. And today, the US Senate has sent a clear message to every corner of our country that we will no longer turn a blind eye to anti-gay violence in America." (hrc.org)

Politics is our strange bedfellow. You often hear "I do not pay attention to politics." Or "It doesn't matter if I vote or not, they don't listen to me anyway." That is scary for our democracy and especially for those in the GLBTQ community who are marginalized and often discriminated against. We must speak up and contact our elected officials often if we want our wishes to be heard. If you were not aware of this legislation it is still not too late to contact the political

leadership in Wisconsin that helped pass this legislation in both the House, last spring, and the Senate just last week. The Senators and those in Congress that supported the Matthew Shepard Act from Wisconsin are as follows: Senator Russ Feingold, Senator Herb Kohl, Congresswomen and Congressmen Tammy Baldwin, Steve Kagen, David Obey, Gwen Moore and Ron Kind.

You are encouraged to contact these political leaders and thank them for supporting the Matthew Sheppard Act. How often do we ask them for something then let it go at that? Even though all of these people are not your Senators or Representatives they deserve acknowledgement by us, the GLBTQ community and our allies, of the importance of their vote. A thank you will reinforce the fact that their constituents are paying attention to how they voted and that is democracy!

Although PositiveVOICE does not endorse candidates, information like this can help you make your own informed decision the next time elections roll around.

Russ Feingold
<http://feingold.senate.gov>
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4904
(202) 224-5323

Herb Kohl
<http://kohl.senate.gov>
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-5653

Tammy Badwin
<http://tammybaldwin.house.gov>
2446 Rayburn Building
Washington DC 20515
(202) 225-2906

Steve Kagen
<http://kagen.house.gov>
1232 Longworth HOB
Washington DC 20515
ph.(202) 225-5665

Ron Kind
<http://www.house.gov/kind/>
1406 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
PH: (202) 225-5506

Gwen Moore
<http://www.house.gov/gwenmoore/>
Washington, DC Office
Phone: 202-225-4572

David Obey
<http://obey.house.gov>
2314 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3365

New Mission Statement

PositiveVOICE's mission is to support all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning individuals, their families and allies through community outreach and education, as well as, collaborative and social activities.

Membership Levels

Sponsors Circle - \$1000 or more
Founders Circle - \$500 to \$999
Director's Circle - \$250 to \$499
Patrons Circle - \$ 75 to \$249
Families Circle - \$35 to \$74
Members Circle - \$25 to \$34
Students Circle - \$10 to \$24

Your contribution goes a long way to our being able to continue to offer unique programs, safe spaces and positive change through community engagement. Thank you!

Visit <https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/PositiveVoice/OnlineDonation.html> or mail your check donation to: PositiveVOICE, PO Box 1381, Green Bay, WI 54305-1318.

PV Board of Directors

President: Lynn N., Vice President: Michael N.; Treasurer: Jennifer S., Secretary: Lloyd S. Members: Dale W., Dave Y., Kathy L., Mary Kay W., Bob G. Alternative: Susan A.

Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of PositiveVOICE or its members. Publication of the name, photograph or likeness of any person, organization or business in this newsletter is not to 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.

United Way Donations

Remember that the Fox Cities United Way and the Brown County United Way allow designations to your favorite nonprofit organization. Therefore, please remember PositiveVOICE this year!

Message from the President: Holiday Celebration & The Need for Office Space

Where are the months going? Soon the holiday season will be here. This is an opportunity to inform you of our holiday party. Save the date – PositiveVOICE holiday celebration will be on Saturday, December 8 at the Eagles Nest Restaurant in Green Bay. An invitation will be sent in the next few weeks. I look forward to seeing you all there.

The board continues to work on the issues discussed at our strategic planning day in addition to looking at ways to grow PositiveVOICE. As I indicated in our September newsletter, at the strategic planning session the board looked at where PositiveVOICE wanted to be in the next year and in the 5 years to come.

The board is committed to looking into finding a permanent space for PositiveVOICE. Although finances are always an issue, we continue to look at our income and the costs to rent an office. We understand that we can not keep office space that is not affordable or we have to move year after year. The board is looking into a place in which the goal is to help get small and non-profit organizations/ businesses off the ground. Giving them a place to rent and grow their organization to the point where they can make it on their own.

We are looking into a business incubator associated with the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. This is an opportunity for us to rent office space, host Drop in Nights, have educational programs, and social events. By renting in this business incubator, PositiveVOICE would get an office space (10x16) for \$222 per month. There are no utility

costs with the exception of phone/DSL lines. We would have use of their multi purpose rooms, copiers, fax machines, etc. There is no long term lease and we can be there until we are financial stable to relocate to a permanent home. This is a newer building on the west side of Green Bay on the NWTC Campus.

The board is looking long term for PositiveVOICE. We would like to see us more like a community center in future years and allow us to expand offices in other parts of Northeastern Wisconsin, as well. The board is looking at other fundraising sources to increase funds for office space and applying for grants for programming.

We need your thoughts and possible financial help. We are interested in knowing whether you would be interested in PositiveVOICE obtaining space in this business incubator for the next 3-5 years. If you are interested, would you be willing to help support the space financially in any way you can? Please contact me at lnash@pvinc.org to let me know your thoughts regarding the possible office space and possible financial contributions. We really want input from our members, so please help us by sharing your input.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Lynn Nash

Remember that serving on a committee is open to our members. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact us at info@pvinc.org. We would be happy to have your experience and energy on our new committees.



PV Pres. Lynn Nash.

**The Lavender Salon
(NE Wisconsin's GLBT Book &
Film Discussion Group)
Is Back!**

Please note that we are repeating this program. Lots of folks had conflicts with our last meeting. If you can't attend this month's program, please call John Kellogg at 1-920-734-6656.

DOUBLE FEATURE

Lavender Salon will resume on Sunday October 28 at 5:30 p.m. with a video/book combination. The video will be *Shock to the System*. It runs about 90 minutes. It's based on the book of the same title which is part of a series featuring the gay Albany N.Y. detective Donald Strachey, so we can discuss both the video and the other books in the series. If you haven't read *Shock...* or have seen the video, read one of the other books.

Our genial host will be Steve whose address is 6764 Lee Harbor Dr., Oshkosh.

Directions to Steve's from the north: take U.S. 41 south past Oshkosh; exit 113 (Highway 26); at the overpass turn left (east) towards Lake Winnebago; this road becomes Country Trunk "N". Take "N" to U.S. 45 and turn right (south) and watch the address signs. Steve's is on the left (east). If you pass the little county park on the left or cross over into Fond du Lac County you've gone a bit too far south.

If you're coming from the south, it's on 45 just over the County Line and past the park.

Bring food to pass.

Other books in the Strachey series are:

Death Trick
On the Other Hand, Death
Ice Blues
Third Man Out
Chain of Fools
Strachey's Folly

Octoberfest is a Huge Success!

By: Lynn Nash

Octoberfest was on September 29, our annual fundraiser (for PositiveVOICE, Angels of Hope, and PFLAG). All of those that participated had a great time.

The word got out fast about the Frozen Chocolate Covered Cheesecake on a stick. Maybe this had to do with our volunteer crew yelling, "Cheesecake, get your cheesecake here." People would look and we would say "we caught you looking, we know you want one". We had people tell us they would be back later, and they were.

We sold several kinds of cheesecake – New York Style, Turtle, White Chocolate Raspberry, and Death by Chocolate. Our volunteers were trying hard to keep up with the demand in sales. We had volunteers taking orders and volunteers making sure the right cheesecake got to the right person. You would hear a volunteer say "I need one turtle and one death" at the same time another one was yelling the same thing. At times it got crazy, but we all had a great time.

We took our first sale at 8:30 and sold out by 3:30. We had repeat customers in the early morning that said they would come back and when they did, we were sold out. They would say, "next year I will get them early".

The event raised a total profit of \$1,646.66. PositiveVOICE had 68.25 hours altogether out of a total of 133 hours. This equates to \$845.00 out of the total profit that comes to PositiveVOICE. I would like to thank everyone from the three organizations who helped make this year's event a huge success.

I would like to extend a special thank you to those Positive VOICE members who worked so hard this year:

Mary Kay Wagner
Michael Nitz & Jerry Koleske
Allen Borgwardt & Bob Archer
Dave Younger & Jennifer Schnabel
Julie Payton & Theresa Weise
Barry Grant & Fran St. Andre
Kathy Rozga

Kevin Smith
Bob Gulig

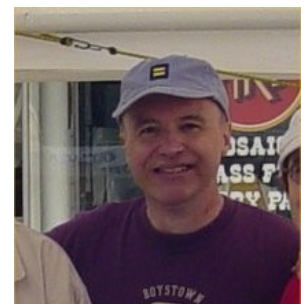
If you are interested in helping with next year's event, please contact Bob Gulig at bgulig@pvinc.org. We are looking to put a committee together to assist Bob this next year.



A Very Special Thank You

Octoberfest would not have been the success it was this year and in past years without the leadership from Bob Gulig. Bob has volunteered his time and energy into Octoberfest for many, many years. Although we have volunteers who help the day of, there is a lot of work and time that Bob puts into this event for months prior and weeks following. Bob does all the arranging, ordering of cheesecake, recruiting volunteers, finding storage, obtaining permits, attending mandatory meetings and much more. Bob works the day of the event from 6:30 am to 7:00 pm each year.

PositiveVOICE, Angels of Hope, and PFLAG benefit each year to the time and energy Bob puts into this event. Thank you Bob for all you have done and continue to do for these organizations. You are truly appreciated by all.



Thank you, Bob!

Transgender Transformation Support Group

By: Lynn Nash

What a success this group is becoming. The group is growing in demand. We are receiving several calls from individuals who are inquiring about the group. Each time I facilitate the group we have new members. People are traveling many miles to attend the group. They are finding the support they need from group members. Several members that travel long distance to attend the group have stated that this is what they have been looking for in their communities but have been unable to find.

As facilitator, I am in awe of the individuals who attend this group and the support they have for one another. The stories they share with each other are so helpful to other members of the group. Their stories and support have helped several members come out.

The Transgender Transformation Support Group meets in the conference room in the Fox Cities Rotary Multicultural Center (connected to Harmony Café) from 6:30 – 8:30pm on the third Monday of the month.

If you have questions please contact the facilitator. Lynn Nash at lnash@pvinc.org.

PositiveVOICE is Selling Seroogy's for a Fundraiser

PositiveVOICE continues to look at ways to fund raise. We have teamed up with Seroogy's and will be selling the following items:

- Homemade Chocolates 9 oz gift boxes \$10.00 each
 - Chocolate Assortment
 - Meltaway Assortment
 - Mint Meltaways
 - Caramels
- Homemade Chocolate Fudge 8 oz. Trays \$4.50 each
- Solid Milk Chocolate 4oz. \$3.20 each
 - Santa
 - Snowman

- Signature Coffees 14oz. resealable bag \$10.00 Each

Colombian Regular
Colombian Decaf
Hazelnut Regular
Hazelnut Decaf
Jamaican Me Crazy Regular
Jamaican Me Crazy Decaf
Holiday Traditions Regular
Holiday Traditions Decaf

We will need to have any orders and money in by November 15th in order to have the products for the holidays. Positive VOICE will receive 40-50 percent of the products sold. After the first of the year, we will be able to continue to sell products and have this be an ongoing fundraiser for Positive VOICE.

If you are interested in purchasing any chocolates or coffees please contact one of the board members who will have the order forms or email Lynn Nash at lnash@pvinc.org. If you would like your own order forms please let us know and we will get you a form.



Madison's First LGBT Health Summit

AIDS Network in partnership with UW Madison LGBT Community Center will host an LGBT health symposium on Saturday November 3. The event is free and open to the community. It will take place on UW campus at Granger Hall between 10-5. Mental and physical health professionals will discuss topics which include same-sex relationship dynamics, intimate partner violence, transgender health, queer sports and latest HIV research. Positive VOICE will have information at a booth at this summit. If you are interested in attending, please contact Shawn Neal at sneal@aidnetwork.org.

GBAN Recognizes One-Year Anniversary

November 7 marks one year since Wisconsin approved an amendment banning same-sex marriage and civil unions.

For the last year, discrimination has been officially sanctioned by the state of Wisconsin. To recognize this passage, and to re-commit ourselves to fighting against the discrimination this amendment enshrines, join the community Wednesday, November 7th at 7:30 near the Liberty Bell at the Brown County Courthouse.

Park where you wish around the courthouse and light your candle. Slowly walk to the bell, where a speaker will address the crowd at 8pm.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrew DeBaker at 920-471-3260 or Andrea Schultz at 920-562-3830.

PositiveVOICE Holiday Party

Saturday, December 8, 2007

It's time to mark your calendars now for the Fourteenth Annual PositiveVOICE Holiday Dinner. The dinner will be held at the Eagle's Nest on the east side of Green Bay.

The social will begin at 6:00 p.m. and includes a cash bar. A family style dinner will follow at 6:30 p.m. featuring chicken, cod, and pasta primavera. To add to the festivities, there will be holiday music, a holiday baked goods auction (provided by the PV board), and a few door prizes. What has become a PV holiday party tradition, there will be a white elephant exchange, too.

\$17 for PositiveVOICE members and \$19 for non-members. For more information contact PV at 920-433-9810 or email info@pvinc.org.

Help us celebrate the holidays by joining everyone in the popular, fun event!

Look for an invitation in your mail soon!



Become a Member of PositiveVOICE or Renew your Membership:

Thinking about becoming a member of *Northeast Wisconsin's largest LGBTQ organization* or renewing your annual membership? Memberships are \$25-\$34 for members and \$35-\$74 for families. There is a special student membership available for \$10-\$24 per year. Members receive the PV Inc. News, discounts on PV events and help support the organization in reaching its goals and enriching everyone's lives. Use the following coupon to send in your membership fee. Remember that **additional donations are always welcome** to help support the work to fulfill the mission statement. THANK YOU!

Name: _____

Optional Information:

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____

Today's Date: _____

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 (July 1-June 30).

____ We are enclosing \$_____ for our family PV Membership for one year (July 1-June 30).

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

Total Amount Enclosed: \$_____ (make checks payable to PositiveVOICE, Inc.)

You can also donate and/or become a member or renew your membership online at www.pvinc.org!

Please mail to PositiveVOICE, Inc. PO Box 1381, Green Bay, WI 54305-1381.

PositiveVOICE respects the right of confidentiality and privacy in all correspondences.

Calendar of Events – 2007

Visit www.pvinc.org for a more complete listing of happens and events!

Meeting & Event Calendar:

Thursday Evenings: Drop-In-Night in Green Bay: Angels of Hope MCC Church, 3607 Libal Street, Green Bay is the home for Drop-In-Night from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

4th Friday of Every Month: Drop-In-Night in Appleton: Harmony Café is the place for Drop-In-Night in Appleton from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Third Monday of Every Month: Transgender Transformation Support Group: Fox Cities Rotary Multicultural Center (connected to Harmony Café) from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 17: ROW Dinner: The fourth annual ROW dinner will be held at Liberty Hall. Contact Mike at 920 437 0994 or by email at rainbowoverwi@aol.com. Join PV Board members for a fun filled evening!

Saturday, December 1: AIDS Vigil: Please join the community at the Angels of Hope MCC Church for the Vigil. Worship from 12:00-7:00 p.m. Forums 3:00-5:00 p.m. Light dinner at 5:30.

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/

GLBT Partnership: Lesbigan 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: Lesbigan reading group meets fourth Sunday of the month. 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 920-882-4056.

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.

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 . 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.

We are looking for GBLTQ events going on in the community! Please send new events, updates, or corrections to info@pvinc.org.

Positive Voice is always looking for *your articles* for our monthly newsletter! Please email your article to articles@pvinc.org!



PositiveVOICE
PO Box 1381
Green Bay, WI 54305-1381

ADDRESS FORWARDING REQUESTED