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PositiveVOICE, Inc. News

December

Message from the President

November has been filled with education, history making, bittersweet victories and sadness. On November 7th, I attended Green Bay Action Network's (GBAN) candlelight vigil marking the one year anniversary of the passing of the constitutional amendment banning gay marriage and civil unions in Wisconsin.

As I was standing there with my candle lit and comforted by all the people who attended in support of each other and all those that were not able to be in attendance, I was reminded of the endless hours of volunteering we all did last year. It was a cold November night this year, as it was last year with the passage of the amendment.

As the bell in the courthouse rang 8 times, Andrew DeBaker took the podium and began to speak to the crowd which had gathered. "... This amendment was a concerted effort by some to single out gays and lesbians as somehow less deserving of the basic rights and privileges most people take for granted. It was an attempt to marginalize us, quiet us, and push us into the corner. It was an attempt to divide our community. We are here to show that although the amendment passed, we are more united and determined than ever."

Andrew went on to say, "... but we understood what this issue was all about...we came together as a community like no other time in recent history... and we continue to fight ... we will remember until the law makers and voters

of Wisconsin remember that this state does not stand for discrimination." Thank you Andrew and GBAN for holding a vigil and having a space for those to go that needed support and empowerment. It was an awesome experience.

Near the same time the vigil for the amendment passing was happening, The Employment Non Discrimination Act (ENDA) was being passed by the House of Representatives. This was a very bittersweet victory. To me, this will not be a true victory until the act includes transgender non discrimination as well. We have to fight to support acts that are inclusive of all people. No one deserves to be discriminated against. We still have a long way to go when I hear people saying things like "What more do they want". We want to all be treated fairly and with respect for who we are no matter how we identify our orientation or gender identity. We need to keep fighting by continuing to lobby and writing our legislators. We need to fight for all of our community.

Please read other articles in this issue that address some of the November happenings.

I hope that you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day. I am thankful to all of you who continue to support the LGBTQ community in all the different ways you do each and every day. I am thankful to have all of you part of my life whether it be through this newsletter, transgender transformation group, drop in nights, PV events, board meetings, or any other way we connect. I am thankful

to have such a wonderful Board of Directors who work so hard behind the scenes to make PositiveVOICE all it can be. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Now that brings us into the next stage of our holiday season – GIVING & SHOPPING. As you start shopping for the holidays, remember that you can go to our website and click on Shop for Charity. By doing this, there are many online places to shop that will give a percentage back to PositiveVOICE when you purchase your items. I have done that for the past few years. I am a Lands End, LL Bean, and Eddie Bauer shopper and this is another way to get your purchases and give back to PositiveVOICE. So go to our website today and begin your shopping. There are many different companies to choose from.

The end of the year always brings us into looking at tax deductibles contributions we can make. Remember Positive VOICE is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization and your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Your contributions go a long way to help us support our mission. We have enclosed a donation envelope for your convenience. Thank you in advance for your contributions and efforts to help support PositiveVOICE.

Remember our Holiday Party is scheduled for December 8th at the Eagles Nest Restaurant in Green Bay. By now, you should have all received an invitation. If you have not received your invitation, please contact me at lnash@pvinc.org. We have a lot of great silent auction

items, as well as baked goods from the board. Oh, and do not forget the white elephant gift exchange. Let's see how creative we can all be. I look forward to meeting you at our event!

I wish you all a very warm, peaceful, safe, and joyous holiday season.

Warmest regards,
Lynn Nash

U.S. House Takes Historic Step by Passing ENDA

In an historic step toward equality, the U.S. House of Representatives successfully passed today the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, ENDA. The vote, 235 to 184, marks the first time ever that either chamber of Congress has passed employment protections based on sexual orientation.

"Today, we witnessed the making of civil rights history in the U.S. House of Representatives by the passing of ENDA," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "This vote by Congress is an important step at ensuring that millions of gay and lesbian Americans will never again have to go to work in fear of losing their jobs because of who they are."

In 31 states, it is currently legal to fire someone based on their sexual orientation. In 39 states, it is legal to fire a person for being transgender.

The Human Rights Campaign helped introduce ENDA 13 years ago to prevent workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation. This year, for the first time, HRC and allies on the Hill included gender identity in the bill to also protect transgender workers. One month ago, House leadership made it clear that Congress did not have the votes to pass HR 2015, which prevents discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

This week, House Rules Committee reported out Congressman Frank's HR 3685, a bill that protects only sexual orientation, to the floor.

While HRC was disappointed that HR

3685 did not include protections for transgender Americans, it believes the successful passage of Congressman Frank's bill is a step forward for all Americans, and that it paves the way for additional progress to outlaw workplace discrimination based on gender identity.

"Our fight for equality will not be won overnight," said Solmonese. "It will be won one step at a time, and we will not give up until we reach the finish line. This is a critical piece of legislation and a major step toward the finish line for all Americans."

Throughout history, Congress has often taken an incremental approach toward equality for other civil rights and business regulatory legislation. For example, the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) was introduced in five consecutive congresses for eight years and was vetoed twice by former President Bush before it was finally signed into law on February 5, 1993, by President Clinton. Each time the FMLA was introduced, Members built upon the protection from the previous year's legislative action. Additionally, each piece of civil rights legislation passed by Congress -- in 1957, 1960, 1963, 1965, 1967, 1968, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1990 -- continued the legislative path of the expansion of essential civil rights protections in law.

Volunteers Needed

★NEWPRIDE '08★

As you may know, the Green Bay Action Network is revitalizing an annual North-east Wisconsin LGBT Pride Event. NEW Pride '08 is scheduled for this upcoming summer and volunteers are needed to ensure its success. We are looking to recruit as many people as possible to help out with the range of tasks that lie ahead of us. We ask that you take a minute to provide us some information about willingness to volunteer on an as-needed basis by emailing info@newpride.org and visiting www.newpride.org. We thank you for your support of this important event.

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!

Naming our Newsletter contest!

Our Newsletter needs a name. You can be part of the decision. Please email us at info@pvinc.org with your suggestion for the name of our monthly newsletter. Be creative and use your imagination. The winner will receive a gift certificate to a local restaurant. The deadline for submissions is January 5, 2008. The decision will be made at our January board meeting. Good luck and submit as many as you wish.

Office Space and POD Storage

As we indicated in last month's newsletter, the board is looking into office space at the Business Incubator on Green Bay's west side on the NWTC Campus. We are currently looking into the feasibility of renting this space. We are waiting on a few things such as grant funding, 2007 budget analysis, and proposed 2008 budget. Whether we move into the office space or not, it has been clear to the board that we can no longer afford to be paying for the POD where our office things are stored. Therefore, we will be looking at selling some of the items and donating others. Some office equipment available is:

- Desks
- Conference table

- Chairs for conference table
- Tables
- Bookshelves
- Office chairs

If you are interested in purchasing any of the items, please let us know by the first week in January. Any items that will not be purchased or used in new office space will be donated to Salvation Army before the end of January. PositiveVOICE will be terminating our POD in January.

Seroogy's Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who purchased chocolates and coffee for our fundraiser with Seroogy's. We sold about \$900 worth. PositiveVOICE received over \$400 from this fundraiser. We received 50% of the chocolates and 40% of the coffee. After the first of the year, you will be able to buy more chocolates and coffee as often as needed. All you need to do is contact us info@pvinc.org and let us know what your order is. We will place orders as often as possible. As Easter approaches, we will have Easter chocolates and fudge eggs available, as well. Keep your eye on our website and the newsletters for updates.

November Happenings

What a month November has been for the LGBTQ community! Here is just a sample of what has been happening both on a statewide and national level:

- *Diverse & Resilient* sponsored the first Transgender 101- Train the Trainer Program on November 1 & 2 (see article).
- Madison held its first LGBTQ Health Summit on November 3rd.
- November 7th marked the one year anniversary of the passing of the constitutional amendment banning gay marriage and civil unions in Wisconsin.
- GBAN hosted a vigil on November 7th.
- ENDA passed in the House of Representatives (see press release from HRC).
- Transgender Day of Remembrance – November 20th marked the 9th An

nual Transgender Day of Remembrance which is designed to honor the memories of transgender people lost to hate violence.

- The FBI reported that the incidence of bias motivated crimes increased by 8% in 2006, making hate crimes based on Sexual Orientation the third most common type of hate crime.

PositiveVOICE Holiday Party

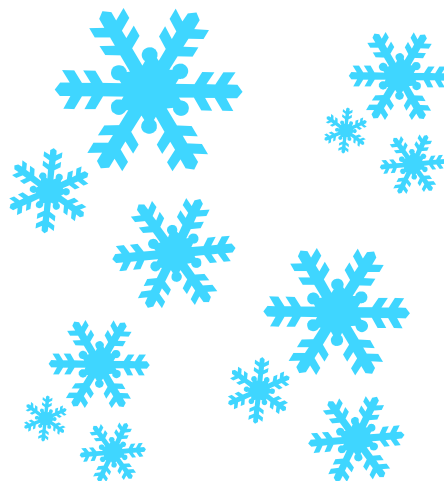
Please join everyone on Saturday, December 8th at 5:45 p.m. at the Eagle's Nest Supper Club for the PositiveVOICE Holiday Party. The dinner begins at 6:30 and features chicken, cod, and pasta primavera.

In our holiday tradition, attendees are asked to bring two rummage sale quality items for the "white elephant" gift exchange. This is always a hilarious and exciting part of the evening!

Reservations are \$17 for PV members and \$19 for non-members. Mail reservation and payment to PositiveVOICE, P.O. Box 1381, Green Bay, WI 54305 by December 3.

If you have any questions, please call PV at 435-4404 or email info@pvinc.org.

Can't wait to see you there!



New Study Regarding Partner Abuse

An interesting new study in the Journal of Urban Health: Bulletin of The New York Academy of Medicine finds that 32 percent of gay and bisexual men —nearly one in three— are victims of intimate partner abuse.

Little has previously been researched and documented about the patterns of intimate partner abuse in same-sex male couples. The results provide an important addition to the body of knowledge on this subject, and a call to action for health providers treating men who have sex with men (MSM).

"Men in same-sex relationships experience abuse rates similar to those faced by women in heterosexual pairings," said lead author Eric Houston of the Department of Psychology, University of Illinois at Chicago. "Intimate partner abuse among MSM does not receive the same attention as it does among heterosexual couples. As a result of the lack of attention, many MSM who need help may not be recognized unless the healthcare provider is appropriately trained and takes time to assess for abuse."

Men in abusive relationships were more likely to report suffering from serious health problems such as heart disease, hypertension, depression, and anxiety, according to the study. These men also were more likely to engage in unhealthy behaviors such as substance abuse and unprotected sex, leaving the gay/bisexual population at elevated risk of spreading and contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Few prior studies have examined the health problems specific to abused gay and bisexual men.

Entitled "Intimate Partner Abuse among Gay and Bisexual Men: Risk Correlates and Health Outcomes," the study is based upon a survey of a diverse urban population of 817 MSMs in the Chicago area. Data was collected from 15-minute anonymous, seven-page surveys administered at 11 different gay/bisexual venues in Chicago. The survey involved African-Americans (51.3 percent), Whites (22.4

percent), Latinos (16.3 percent), and Asian/Pacific Islanders and other ethnic groups (10 percent).

More than half of the men who were victims of intimate partner abuse in a current or a past relationship reported experiencing more than one form of abuse (verbal, sexual and physical). Of the men reporting abuse, 63.4 percent reported verbal abuse, 59.2 percent reported physical, and 57 percent reported sexual. Prevalence of abuse did not significantly vary by ethnic group, or among men who did or did not have a primary partner.

The study looked at three key health behaviors: alcohol and drug use, unprotected sex, and smoking. Test results found that abused men were more likely to report monthly or more frequent alcohol intoxication and problems caused by substance use. Abused men were also more likely to report frequent use of substances before or during sex as well as having unprotected sex, leading to a higher risk of spreading or contracting HIV/AIDS and other STDs.

"It is imperative that future research focus on ways to assess abuse and examine strategies designed to improve outreach to bring these men out of danger and improve their overall health outcomes," Houston said.

The Journal of Urban Health is a bi-monthly peer-reviewed publication of The New York Academy of Medicine and focuses on the emerging fields of urban health and epidemiology. The Journal addresses health issues such as substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, HIV, tuberculosis, and violence from both clinical and policy perspectives, filling a neglected niche in medical and health literature. Published since 1847, the Journal is edited by David Vlahov, PhD, RN, Director of the Academy's Center for Urban Epidemiologic Studies and Senior Vice President for Research.

Sexual Assault Center of Family Services NEW

By: Lynn Nash

The Sexual Assault Center provides services 24/7 for victims of sexual assault.

The Center has an LGBTQ Coordinator who specializes in working with victims who identify as LGBTQ or are victims of same sex violence or intimate partner violence. If you find yourself in a situation like in the above article, please contact the Sexual Assault Center of Family Services NEW. For more information, please contact Lynn Nash at 920-436-4360 X1316. You do not need to handle this alone.

New Interim Pastor Takes Over at Angels of Hope

On October 14th, Rev. Elaine Thomas gave her final sermon at Angels of Hope Metropolitan Community Church. She left to accept a full time chaplaincy position for an area hospice program.

The following Sunday, October 21st, marked the first day for the new interim pastor, Rev. Dr. Gail Simonds (she prefers just to be called Gail). Gail will be remaining the interim pastor at Angels of Hope for approximately 1 year. It is hoped that near the end of 2008 a permanent pastor will be selected by the congregation.

Gail lives up in Kingsford Michigan with her partner, three dogs and a cat. She has both a Bachelors Degree and a Masters Degree in Forestry. She went on to get her PhD in Agronomy and ultimately her Master of Divinity. Gail has worked in Kentucky and Tennessee as a forestry research scientist, in South Dakota as a self-employed dairy farmer.

Most recently she works in the Michigan Upper Peninsula where she has become a church planter for the Metropolitan Community Church. Gail expresses her feelings about the Upper Peninsula as follows: "We live in an area where Christian Churches that affirm the lives of LGBTQ people are few and far between. MCC, despite the metropolitan in the name, belongs here. The UP is where I am at home. This is my "spiritual geography," the place where I feel most connected to G-d. I love the weather, especially winter, the natural world and the people."

Please come to Angels of Hope and meet

Gail. Church services continue to be at 11:00 am at the Green Bay church located at 3607 Libal St. in Allouez and at 6:00 pm in the Chapel at First Congregational United Church of Christ located at 724 E. South River St. in Appleton.

Transgender Transformation Group

Positive Voice offers a Transgender Transformation Support Group. This group is for individuals who identify as transgender, metrosexual, and transsexual, two-spirited, inter-sex, cross dresser, or are questioning their gender identity. The group is also open to significant others. This group has been running in Appleton at Harmony Café for the past year and a half. The group meets on the third Monday of the month at Harmony Café in Appleton. The group runs from 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

Please join us December 17th for our Holiday Pot Luck.

Transgender 101 Train the Trainers

I was asked by *Diverse & Resilient* in Milwaukee to participate in their first Transgender 101 - Train the Trainers program in early November. This is a program that has been in the making for over two years. *Diverse & Resilient* asked several trainers who either worked with transgender individuals or identified as transgender to come together for a pilot training. There were about 15 people who attended. The goal was to have the participants go out into their communities and provide training to organizations, agencies, community groups, etc.

PositiveVOICE is looking at bringing *Diverse & Resilient* trainers up to the Appleton/Green Bay area to do transgender training (without the train the trainer's component) for our membership and community. This would help us address one of our strategic planning goals of education, and include more information and outreach to the transgender community. Please look for this training to happen in the spring of 2008.

The training would be a 2-4 hour training that looks at the social construct of gender and how that impacts our lives and

the lives of others. It is not a training to identify every process a transgender individual would go through, but more to have people walk away with a better understanding of their own issues regarding gender and how that impacts on their life. The training does address that Transgender is an umbrella term for many things.

Thank You

Thank you to Allegra Print & Imaging for printing the PositiveVOICE newsletter each month.

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: _____
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 (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.

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, 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.

Saturday, December 8: PositiveVOICE Holiday Party: Eagles Nest.

Monday, December 17: Transgender Transformation Group Pot Luck: Harmony Café from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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. Services every Sunday (6:00 PM) at UCC at 724 E South River Drive (south side of the river from Lawrence). Call 920-983-7453.

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!



Lynn Nash

Program Supervisor/LGBTQ Coordinator
Sexual Assault Center
lnash@familyservicesnew.org

300 Crooks Street, Green Bay, WI 54301 P.O. Box 22308, Green Bay, WI 54305-2308
24-hour Crisis Line: (920) 436-8899 Tel: (920) 436-4360 ext. 1316 Fax: (920) 432-5966

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*Affirming gay, lesbian, bisexual and
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P.O. Box 390
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Email: racwinc@hotmail.com



Revs. Roger Bertschausen
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Message phone 715-355-8641
E-mail: footstepfellowship@yahoo.com
Jackie Mallory, Pastor
Joan Glascock, Elder Website: www.geocities.com/footstepfellowship



PFLAG

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PFLAG - Appleton/Fox Cities
Fox Cities Rotary Multicultural Center
128 N. Oneida Street
Appleton, WI 54911

E-mail: pflagfc@yahoo.com
Helpline Phone: 920-882-4056



PositiveVOICE
PO Box 1381
Green Bay, WI 54305-1381

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