

## Highlights

- PV Office to relocate/close
- Anti-Marriage Amendment

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- Fair Wisconsin Kicks Off
- Day of Silence in April

## Events

- March 28<sup>th</sup> – Regional Faith Committees Meeting
- March 31<sup>st</sup> – PV Meeting – Soulforce Speaking



# PositiveVOICE, INC News



## PV Dinner Meeting with Soulforce Guest Speaker

**POSITIVE VOICE** to host dinner meeting with guest speaker Steven Webster of Soulforce Wisconsin on March 31<sup>st</sup> at Liberty Hall in Kimberly. Social hour at 6pm, Optional Dinner at 6:30pm and Program at 7pm.

“A Community of Acceptance” is the theme for the March PV dinner meeting. The evening’s featured speaker will be Steven Webster of Soulforce Wisconsin. He will address the challenges of religious toleration and acceptance.

Co-founded by the Rev. Dr. Mel White and his partner, Gary Nixon, Soulforce Inc. is a non-profit organization located in Lynchburg, VA. Soulforce operates as an ecumenical network of staff and volunteers committed to teaching and applying the principles of nonviolence on behalf of sexual minorities.



Gary Nixon and Rev. Dr. Mel White

The Soulforce Mission Statement: "The purpose of Soulforce is freedom for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people from religious and political oppression through the practice of relentless nonviolent resistance."

Join us as we explore the Past, Present and Future of Northeast Wisconsin’s GLBT community. Social hour will begin at 6pm, optional dinner at 6pm and the free program at 7pm. The family style dinner will be offered for only \$5.

The event will take place at Liberty Hall, 800 Eisenhower in Kimberly. *Liberty Hall has a large sign on the building and is located on the left, somewhat set back from the street. A McDonald’s restaurant is in front of the Hall and a Hilton Hotel is behind the Hall.*

From the Oshkosh area take Hwy 41 until you get to Hwy 441. Take Hwy 441 North until the College Ave exit. At College Ave take a right and go two blocks until you get to Eisenhower Dr. Then follow the italicized directions listed above.

### PV Office Update

Our PV Drop-In Night has continued weekly on Thursdays at 6:00pm. The Green Bay POSITIVE VOICE office has proved to be an inviting location to meet. Attendance has averaged 12 to 15, with some nights seeing nearly 25.

Unfortunately, PV will need to vacate our current location by the end of May 2006. Arketype will soon begin construction work in the Church building next to our office. The contractor has determined it is necessary to raze the building housing our office to

allow staging room for their construction equipment and materials.

The PV board is working to determine options for the summer; if we can find another affordable location for our Green Bay office or temporarily “close shop” until space is available. We are asking friends of PV to let us know if they can assist.

In the meantime, take this opportunity to join us at the Drop-In nights, on Thursday evenings. The PV office is located downtown at 618 Stuart St., just east of the Monroe St and Stuart St intersection. This corner is 2 blocks south of the Monroe (Bus Hwy 57) and Walnut St. (Bus. Hwy 29) intersection.

### Equality Conference Success

On Saturday, February 25 the Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Appleton hosted a day-long conference called “Start Now: Building Marriage Equality.” Although 75 pre-registered for the event, walk-in registrants rose total attendance past 120.

Mike Tate of Action Wisconsin took the opportunity to introduce himself as the new Campaign Manager of the “No on the Amendment” campaign. AW staff also provided information and training to advocate effectively against the amendment.

Carrie and Elisia Ross-Stone of the Rainbow Law Corporation were the other principle speakers for the event.

They shared their personal journey in their efforts to obtain and promote equality. Later, they led informational sessions about estate planning and legal issues for families. See [www.rainbowlaw.org](http://www.rainbowlaw.org) for information.

Michele Perreault, a Madison attorney that practices in the areas of family law, domestic partnership law, adoption, and criminal defense, led sessions to give information and insights specific to Wisconsin. Sue Graber, financial service representative with MetLife Financial Services, led presentations on financial security for GLBTs and their families.

The conference was organized by **Interweave**, a GLBT group of the Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. The conference was supported by **POSITIVE VOICE**, PFLAG Fox Cities, and Angels of Hope MCC. Additional sponsors include the GLBT Partnership, Etcetera, Harmony Cafe, Rainbow Alliance for HOPE, and Welcoming Congregation Committee of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wausau. A great conference indeed.

## Fair Wisconsin Regional Faith Organizing Event

By Joshua Freker

Already we've had unprecedented support for our campaign against the civil unions and marriage ban from faith communities in Wisconsin. It's time to take that a step farther.

We are forming regional faith organizing committees with local clergy and lay leaders. The goal of the committee is to inform the many mainline Protestants about the ban and why they should vote no as Christians. The regional committees will be supplied with resource kits that include sample sermons, adult education materials, templates on how to put together local faith community discussions, and more.

We will hold a first meeting for people in Green Bay who want to be involved in this particular outreach on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm at the **POSITIVE VOICE** office, 618 Stuart St., Green Bay.

You are invited, and I highly encourage you to invite clergy and lay activities you know to be supportive. This is their chance to plug in, ask questions, and take on a piece of making history in Wisconsin. The agenda of the meeting will be circulated closer to then, but the primary goal is to develop a plan of action that makes the most sense for Green Bay faith outreach.

I hope you can join us. Thanks very much, Joshua Freker, Communications Director, Fair Wisconsin

<http://www.fairwisconsin.com>

## Fair Wisconsin Kicks-off

Fight against the State  
Anti-Civil Unions Amendment

By Michael Nitz

Fair Wisconsin held their kick-off program to mobilize voters in fighting the anti-gay marriage amendment at the Appleton Public Library on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The meeting drew an overflow crowd of at least 150 to 200 people including three local news stations with cameras.

Local voters were enthusiastically welcomed by Mike Tate, Fair Wisconsin's campaign manager. He noted that 16 states have already passed amendments to their constitutions to ban gay marriages. Wisconsin's legislature has proposed an amendment to do the same that will be on the



November ballot.

Our amendment, though, is one of the most broadly written amendments yet presented. Not only would it ban gay marriages (currently not allowed by state law), but it would also ban any form of civil unions or domestic partnerships for both gay and heterosexual couples.

But, Tate feels that we stand an extremely good chance of being the first state to vote down a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. Forty

percent of the population already feels that this amendment would go too far. They are supportive of civil unions. About another forty percent feels just as strongly in support of the amendment. So, we need to find and help teach the middle twenty percent who are undecided why this amendment is bad politics, bad for business, bad for families, and bad for Wisconsin.

To that end, presentations were made by Bob Pedersen, director of Goodwill Industries of Northeast Wisconsin and Diversity Chair of The New North, Pastor Steve Blackstock, Memorial Presbyterian Church, and Connie Raether, a volunteer organizer with the Fox Valley Action Network.



All three spoke eloquently against the amendment addressing why it is bad for Wisconsin. Bob Pedersen spoke about the development of The New North, a coalition of business, government, and community leaders from the Fox Cities to Marinette. The New North's vision is to help all of the communities of northeast Wisconsin prosper and flourish. They see diversity as good for the community, it helps business flourish. This amendment enforces discrimination of a group. Discriminating against pockets of people never engenders trust and good will.

Pastor Blackstock addressed why this amendment goes against the heart of the Bible. It violates the basics of the Golden Rule: *So in everything do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.*

The meeting concluded with Fair Wisconsin Staff Josh Frekker and Lindsey Saunders describing various ways to become involved in stopping the passage of the amendment. For more

information visit Fair Wisconsin's website [www.fairwisconsin.com](http://www.fairwisconsin.com)

*Pictures from the Fair Wisconsin Website.*

## Day of Silence & Breaking the Silence

By Kathy Flores

On Wednesday, April 26, 2006, teens from local high schools and their GSA's will be participating in **National The Day of Silence**. The Day of Silence, a project of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) in collaboration with the United States Student Association (USSA), is a student-led day of action where those who support making anti-LGBT bias unacceptable in schools take a day-long vow of silence to recognize and protest the discrimination and harassment -- in effect, the silencing -- experienced by LGBT students and their allies.

**DAY of SILENCE** As teachers and students ask these students to speak throughout the day, they will share cards stating: "Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I am participating in the Day of Silence; a national youth movement protesting the silence faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their allies. My deliberate silence echoes that silence, which is caused by harassment, prejudice, and discrimination. I believe that ending the silence is the first step toward fighting these injustices. Think about the voices you are not hearing today. What are you going to do to end the silence?"

To show support and encouragement for our young leaders, **POSITIVE VOICE, INC.** and **PFLAG** of the Fox Cities is hosting a pizza party and program after their Day of Silence in their high schools. Teens are invited to join us for a pizza party and rally on Wednesday, April 26 from 5-6 at the Harmony Café, 124 N. Oneida Street in Appleton, to **BREAK THE SILENCE** and make some noise!

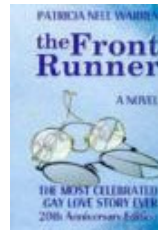
At 6:00 p.m. they will be given the opportunity to tell their story at the microphone to continue breaking the silence. We invite **POSITIVE VOICE PFLAG** members to come to the 6:00 program to show their support for these courageous teens. For questions please contact Kathy Flores at 920-832-1667.

<http://www.dayofsilence.org/>

## Lavender Salon Event

Lavender Salon will discuss Patricia Nell Warren's early romantic novel, *The Front Runner* on March 26th.

The meeting will be held in the back of the store, The Rug Company (127 College Avenue), in Appleton. The meeting will begin at 5:30pm and run until around 9pm. The first hour is always a potluck dinner. Bring a dish to pass. We do no coordination of the meal, it's truly pot luck!



## Working with GLBT's

Sue Graber, a financial service representative with MetLife Financial Services in Green Bay, Wisconsin is a financial professional now working with the growing Gay and Lesbian community. She will devote her energy to helping people in the community achieve their goals by making smart decisions with their money.

"I have a tremendous amount of respect for the relationship that develops between a financial professional and a client," says Sue Graber. "My goals are to focus on the unique issues that present financial challenges in our community such as:"

- Is your partner (and / or children) covered financially in case something were to happen to you?
- Are you and your partner making smart decisions with your money so you can retire with a comfortable lifestyle?
- Do you maximize the options available to you in order to reduce your taxable income?

Are you aware of the value of your estate and the issues that surround transferring it to whom you want?

Have you evaluated your current investments as they relate to your accumulation goals?

If you own a business, are you and your employees financially protected?

Sue Graber is available to discuss in detail the above-mentioned topics and help take the mystery out of building one's own financial freedom. She can also explain how priorities sometimes differ from those seen in the non-Gay or Lesbian community. Graber can be reached at: (800) 994-6688 x 123/ 920-498-2711 x123

**email:** [sgraber1@metlife.com](mailto:sgraber1@metlife.com)  
**website:** [SueGraber.metlife.com](http://SueGraber.metlife.com).

The Gay and Lesbian community has unique issues that should be addressed by someone who is familiar with solving their needs" says Graber.

Annuities and life insurance offered through Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, 200 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10166.

## PV Education Committee

The **POSITIVE VOICE** Education Committee meets monthly at the GB office. A number projects are in the works and are in various stages of development. Some of them include:

- Studying grant possibilities for youth oriented events and scholarships. Since December, **PV** has collected \$479 towards a \$10,000 goal for a standing scholarship endowment fund. More information will be forthcoming. If you would like to contribute toward the fund, please contact **PV**.

- Distribution of the GLBT Issues Speakers Bureau Brochure. If you would like to be considered as a potential speaker, please contact **PV**.

- Working to assist local GSA's with various concerns, events and issues.

- Planning youth issues focused book and/or movie review sessions.

Education Committee meetings are open to all. If you have a favorite resource you would like to share or you

can recommend a good speaker on GLBTQ issues, please contact the committee at educationtf@pvinc.org

### Wanted: True To Life Team Applicants

The WI Division of Public Health and Family Services is funding the recruitment of youth for next year's True To Life team. Team members are typically recent high school graduates who commit just under a year to the Abstinence Program. The 2006-2007 team will be different from previous

teams, in that we are looking for youth with theatrical training or public speaking experience.

The team travels the state through out the school year, providing educational performances that highlight the benefits of abstinence. The performances will emphasis positive youth development, parent-child connectedness, scholastic and personal goal setting, and peer support for delaying sexual activity.

We are looking for confident, outgoing team members of diverse race/ethnicity. LGBTQ youth are encouraged to apply. The AIDS

Resource Center of Wisconsin coordinates and supervises the team. ARCW will choose six "2006-2007" True to Life speakers.

Apply online by March 31, 2006: [www.arcw.org](http://www.arcw.org) and look under 'Job Opportunities'. If you have any questions, please contact: If you have questions, contact: Jami Kaiser, Abstinence Education Coordinator, 715-355-6867 [jami.kaiser@arcw.org](mailto:jami.kaiser@arcw.org)

### Newsletter Ad Rates

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

**1/8 Page** (Business card 4.25" X 2.75") \$15;  
**1/4 Page** (4.25" X 5.5") \$25; **1/2 Page** (4.25" X 11" OR 8.5" X 5.5") \$40; **Full Page** (8.5" X 11") \$70. To inquire about placing an ad or the rates for running an ad for longer than three months, please contact **PV** at (920) 435-4404 OR write to **POSITIVE VOICE** PO Box 1381, Green Bay, WI 54305-1381. We can also be reached via e-mail at [info@pvinc.org](mailto:info@pvinc.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 viewpoints and feelings, to grow, and to gain a greater sense of fulfillment in our lives.

### Editorial Policy:

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

### PV Board of Directors

**Pres:** Dennis Krenn; **VP:** Bob Gulig;  
**Treasurer:** Michael Nitz; **Secretary:** Lloyd Schaefer.

**PV Board Members:** Tim, Susan Allen, Kathy Flores, Dale Winkler.

**Alternates:** Marty Brown  
Newsletter Contributors: Dennis, Lloyd, Dale, Kathleen, Susan

## A Community of Acceptance

### Exploring the Past, Present & Future of Northeast Wisconsin's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community

Presented by



**PositiveVOICE**

Hosted by:  
**LIBERTY HALL**

800 Eisenhower Dr  
Kimberly, WI

Friday, March 31, 2006

6:00 - 9:00 pm

Liberty Hall

Kimberly, Wisconsin

Residents & civic leaders will share their history of the local GLBT community and offer insights on present & future challenges.

The evening's featured speaker will be **Steven Webster** of Soulforce Wisconsin, who will address the challenges of religious toleration and acceptance.

Cost of dinner is \$5.00  
Program cost is no charge.  
Reservation Required.

**Please e-mail [lloyd1103@webtv.net](mailto:lloyd1103@webtv.net) by March 31st to register.**  
**Visit [www.pvinc.org](http://www.pvinc.org) for more info.**

Social Hour begins at 6pm - Optional Family Style Dinner begins at 6:30pm  
Program begins at 7pm. Reservations Required.  
Call Lloyd at (920) 433 9810 or email [lloyd1103@webtv.net](mailto:lloyd1103@webtv.net) before March 28th

## Meeting and Event Calendar

**Thursday Evenings: Drop In – Meet and Greet Night 6-9pm- POSITIVE VOICE , 618 Stuart St, Green Bay, Wi** – Regular weekly drop in night from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the **PV** Office. 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.

**Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>:** At 5:30pm-9pm, Lavender Salon will discuss Patricia Nell Warren's early romantic novel, *The Front Runner*. The potluck meeting will be held in the back of the store, The Rug Company (127 College Avenue), in Appleton

**Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>:** At 7:30pm, a first meeting for those who want to be involved in a regional faith organizing committee at the **POSITIVE VOICE** office, 618 Stuart St., Green Bay. Sponsored by Fair Wisconsin. For more info, see news article.

**Friday Evening, March 31<sup>st</sup>: PV Dinner Meeting** – Guest speaker from **Soulforce**. Social hour 6pm, optional dinner at 6pm and the free program at 7pm. The family style dinner will be offered for only \$5. For more info, see article this newsletter.

### 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 815 North Richmond St., **Appleton**. 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:** 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. 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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)

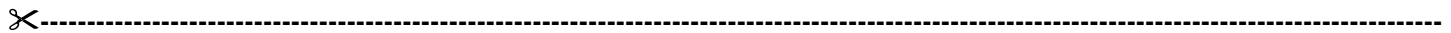
**Toward Community: Unity In Diversity** Racial/ethnic unity group supportive of gay rights. Meets third Wednesdays at 7:30 a.m. odd months; 6:30 p.m. even months at the Harmony Café. Contact number is 731-6602 ext. 1242.

**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.

**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)



**To become a member of POSITIVE VOICE or renew your membership:**

Think 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!**

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\_\_\_\_\_ 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.**) Should we mail the newsletter in a private envelope? **Yes** or **No** or **EMAIL** (circle one)



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**POSITIVE VOICE respects the right of confidentiality and privacy in all correspondence**



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c/o Larson  
1716 S. Hycrest Dr.  
Appleton, WI 54914  
E-mail: [pflagfc@yahoo.com](mailto:pflagfc@yahoo.com)  
Helpline Phone: 920-735-1025

**Liberty Hall**  
BANQUET AND CONFERENCE CENTER  
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414 731 0174 FAX  
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Come and worship with us!  
**ANGELS OF HOPE**  
Metropolitan Community Church  
Pastor: Rev. Elaine Thomas  
3607 Libal Street., Green Bay  
815 North Richmond St, Appleton  
Sunday Services at 11am in Green Bay  
and 6pm in Appleton  
To learn more, call 920-983-7453

# As Domestic Partners, Chris and Pat have taken control of their future.



## If you could do the same, would you?

Working with their financial professional, they were able to:

- Give each other the power to make decisions should either of them become unable.
- Ensure that both of them are financially secure should something unexpected happen.
- Potentially reduce the amount of taxes they pay.\*
- Pay for medical needs, without depleting their savings, should they become ill.
- Help ensure that their money will last as long as they do when they retire.

At MetLife Financial Services, we understand the unique concerns facing domestic partners. We will assess your present situation, explore your future goals and then develop a financial strategy that is important to both you and your domestic partner.

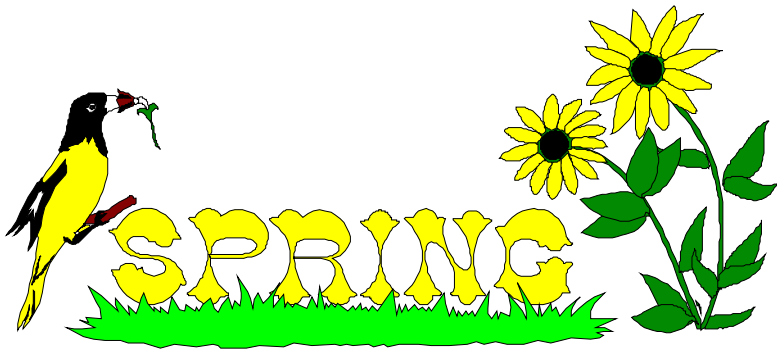
To set up a free consultation and to find out how working with a financial professional can help you achieve your dreams while protecting your relationship, please give us a call for more information.

Sue Graber  
Financial Services Representative  
2740 South Oneida  
Green Bay, WI 54304  
Office (800)-994-6688 ext. 123  
Email: [sgrabert@metlife.com](mailto:sgrabert@metlife.com)  
Website: [SueGraber.MetLife.com](http://SueGraber.MetLife.com)

*\*Consult your professional tax advisor before making any decisions.*

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