

Highlights

- * 2007 PositiveVOICE Rewind - President's Message
- * Name the Newsletter Contest



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Events

- * PositiveVOICE Annual Meeting is Monday, May 12, 2008

PositiveVOICE, Inc. News

February 2008 Happy New Year!

Transgender Transformation Group – Lynn Nash

At our December meeting, we had a holiday pot luck. We had a great time meeting family, friends and new group members. We had music, food, laughter, food, and more food. It was a wonderful evening. Please see the picture of some of the members of the 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 2 years. The group meets on the third Monday of the month at Harmony Café in Appleton. The group runs from 6:30 – 8:30 pm.



Transgender Transformation Support Group

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 extended deadline for submissions is February 15, 2008. The decision will be made at our March board meeting. Good luck and submit as many as you wish.

Top Ten Reasons to Donate to PositiveVOICE

1. Our mission is to serve YOU, and we can't effectively do it without your support!
2. Your donation is tax-deductible!
3. Your donation can be earmarked for the Youth Scholarship Fund, the Office Space Fund, or the General Use Fund.
4. "Haven't we already given money to rich people?" George W. Bush
5. Identity thieves won't be tempted to hack into your computer and raid your bank account if you've already given all of your money to Positive Voice.
6. It's less painful than donating your organs for scientific research.
7. C'mon, give some money...Think of

what we could accomplish if you donated the price of one cup of expensive coffee or one gallon of gas per week!

8. Ben Franklin, Ulysses Grant, Andrew Jackson and Alexander Hamilton want to be involved in the organization!
9. "Money is like manure; it's not worth a thing unless it's spread around." Thornton Wilder.
10. An overstuffed wallet makes your butt look huge. By giving us your money, you'll be shedding extra pounds while supporting a worthy cause, and you'll look & feel simply FABULOUS doing it!

Message from the President:

Happy New Year Everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season.

What a year 2007 was for PositiveVOICE. We have had successful events, fundraisers, and drop in nights.

Let's start with Drop in Nights. This past year, our Drop in Nights have been held at Angels of Hope church in Green Bay. When we moved out of our Greene Street location in late January 2007, Angels of Hope Church graciously opened up there lower level to PositiveVOICE to host our weekly Drop in Nights. We have had several new people attend this social event as well as our ongoing regulars. These evenings have been a great place for new people to meet others and have a safe place to go. Thank you Angels of

Hope, we appreciate your support of PositiveVOICE's Drop in Nights.

In May, 2007 at our annual meeting, we said goodbye to Dennis Krenn as president. Dennis stepped down to take a well deserved rest. Dennis has been an active board member of PositiveVOICE for many years. Dennis was recognized for his years of dedication and hard work with PositiveVOICE with an award at the annual meeting. Thank you, Dennis, for all your hard work and consistent dedication to PositiveVOICE.

In July, the new board met for a strategic planning meeting and discussed plans for PositiveVOICE in the coming year. The goals that PositiveVOICE has been operating off of for the past several years focused on support, education, outreach, social events, and collaboration. Those five goals continue to be what we are striving for within PositiveVOICE. We changed our mission statement to reflect our goals.

New Mission Statement:

Positive VOICE'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.

We also knew we needed to focus on renewing and expanding our membership, fundraising, and looking for office space. We have made progress on all three of those things only half way through the fiscal year.

In August, we wrote a grant to PFUND for funds to support our drop in nights and office space. We wrote the grant asking for \$5,000. Unfortunately, we were not awarded the grant, but encouraged to continue to apply annually.

In September, we participated in Octoberfest our annual fundraiser (for PositiveVOICE, Angels of Hope, and PFLAG). 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.

Thank everyone from the three organizations who helped make this year's event a huge success.

In November, we teamed up with Green Bay Action Network's (GBAN) and supported their candlelight vigil marking the one year anniversary of the passing of the constitutional amendment banning gay marriage and civil unions in Wisconsin. Thank you GBAN for holding a vigil and having a space for those to go that needed support and empowerment. It was an awesome experience.

In December, we held our annual Holiday Party at the Eagles Nest Restaurant in Green Bay. Over 30 people attended this event and a great time was had by all. We had a lot of silent auction items and baked goods. PositiveVOICE raised \$664 at this year's event. A special thank you to all of you who attended and supported PositiveVOICE with your donations and purchases.



PositiveVOICE members enjoying themselves at the Holiday Party.

PositiveVOICE also teamed up with Seeroogy's in December and sold chocolates and coffees as a fundraiser. We raised over \$400 with this fundraising event. Look for this again in March 2008, as we sell chocolates for Easter.



Michael N. and Jennifer S. at the New Years Party.

To close out 2007 and ring in 2008, my partner and I held a private New Years Eve party for those members who are in the Patrons Circle and above in addition to

those that volunteered their time at Octoberfest. This was a new event this year to honor their support. Thank you to all that attended, we had a wonderful time.

So what is in the store for the year to come? We will keep you posted on all the plans. We are planning on doing some educational events in the next several months. Keep watching the website and the monthly newsletters for details.

GO PACKERS!

Warmest regards,
Lynn Nash

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.

PositiveVOICE Board of Directors

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



PositiveVOICE Board members at the Holiday Party.

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.

"...then Ava happened."

By: Bruce A. Vanis

The official title for the day was "World AIDS Day Vigil and Awareness Day" (December 1st, 2007) here at Angels of Hope MCC in Green Bay. We had co-sponsorship by Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW - a statewide network of AIDS testing and assistance offices) and Positive Voice (A GLBT and allies social/education group here in Green Bay) with major participation by PFLAG of Door County. We started the event by lighting a candle for each of the 47 names and groups listed in the bulletin as part of a worship service at noon. Following that we started an all day gathering in the Rev Ken Hull Centre (our meeting space) with an open forum from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. At the final worship for the day we once again proclaimed the names and extinguished the candles.

The Green Bay Press Gazette newspaper listed us as the only World AIDS Day event in Green Bay and the local CBS television affiliate interviewed me in the sanctuary and we were part of their 10pm news coverage of the day.

Then AVA happened. Snow storm Ava, as the weather folks called it, started about mid afternoon so the attendance was reduced but still very respectable for ultra conservative Green Bay, Wisconsin. We had one lady from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan who traveled 130 miles to be with us the entire day. She, like me and some other, stayed in town rather than driving in the storm to get home.

Like the snow swirling outside, inside I was a mixture of swirling emotions...joy, sadness, hope and despair. And that, is as poetic as I will ever get!

"Best Places to Work for GLBT Equality"

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the nation's largest gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization, today released its annual list of the "Best Places to Work for GLBT Equality." A total of 195 companies that achieve this honor will use the 2008 "Best Places to Work for GLBT Equality" seal to distinguish their company as a fair-minded employer. The seal is given to companies who score a perfect 100% on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Corporate Equality Index which measures policies and practices implemented to promote fairness and equality in the workplace for GLBT employees.

"We honor the companies awarded for being the 'Best Places to Work for GLBT Equality,'" said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "Each of these companies is working hard to transform their workplaces and make them safer for millions of employees around the country. We can now say that at least 10 million employees are protected on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity on the job."

The 2008 Corporate Equality Index report, released this past fall, awarded an unprecedented 195 major U.S. businesses the top rating of 100 percent, up from 138 last year—a 41 percent increase. One of the CEI's major findings was that a majority of rated employers now offer workplace protections on the basis of gender identity—58 percent. That number has increased from just 29 percent in 2005.

In Wisconsin, Foley & Lardner LLP under the category of Law Firms and S.C. Johnson & Son Inc. under the category of Retail and Consumer Products were recognized as great places to work.

To see a complete listing of companies who received the 2008 "Best Places to Work for GLBT Equality" seal and to find an image of the seal, please visit

www.hrc.org/placestowork.

The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against GLBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.

NEWPride '08

NEWPride '08 is moving forward! On July 12, 2008, hundreds of members of the LGBT community and their allies will come together at Joannes Park in Green Bay to remember our similarities and celebrate our differences. The goal of Pride is to perpetuate a positive LGBT presence in Northeast Wisconsin and allow businesses to create a relationship with the community. It's also a way for us to learn about the various non-profit organizations in northeast Wisconsin dedicated to helping and providing support to us. This one-day event will be held late morning to early evening and will include various vendors, panel discussions, educational booths, and stage entertainment. This family-inclusive event will be open to the general public.

At this time the working committees have been established and are meeting regularly to plan for July. Various members of the community are involved, including the full support of Arketype Inc., as well as Toni Loch, former head of the Brown County United Way, and Nancy Nusbaum, former Brown County Executive. We have also have commitments from Kimberly-Clark, Starbucks, Aon, and XS Nightclub. We are in contact with dozens of other national and local businesses discussing sponsorship opportunities and ways to get involved.

NEWPride is an arm of Rainbow Over Wisconsin and was created specifically to plan and manage NEWPride '08. Rainbow Over Wisconsin, a 501(c)3 organization, was established in 1995 as a way to channel funding and support to LGBT projects and groups throughout Northeast Wisconsin. NEWPride is co-chaired by Andrea Schultz and Andrew DeBaker, with support from the working committee leads.

Interested in getting involved? We are always looking for more people to join the committees and be a part in creating Pride. Remember, this is your Pride! Help make it the best it can be. To get involved, call Andrew DeBaker at 920-471-3260 or email at info@newpride.org. To learn about the latest developments, visit us as www.newpride.org.

POD Storage

The following items of PositiveVOICE are in storage through January and February.

- 2 floor lamps
- 2 coat racks
- 1 small, wooden table circa 1920's or 1930's
- 1 large, erasable office board
- 1 box of kitchen supplies
- 3 large and 3 small white plastic waste baskets with swivel lids
- 9 tan, upholstered, straight-back chairs
- 1 5' x 5' green divider screen
- 1 2' x 5' green divider screen
- 3 TV/Microwave tables on casters
- 1 brown-cloth office chair on casters
- 1 2-drawer, black, low-profile file cabinet
- 2 blue-cloth, cushioned chairs with matching love-seat

- 1 5' x 5' beige screen divider
- 2 large, very heavy, laminate conference tables
- 3 large (6' x 2 1/2') multi-level, brown book cases
- 7 metal-laminate office desks with multiple drawers
- 3 blue office chairs on casters
- 1 4-drawer, black file cabinet
- Broom with dust pan

We will be looking at selling some of the items and donating others. If you are interested in purchasing any of the items, please e-mail us at info@pvinc.org .

The 3rd Annual LGBTQ Spring Conference "LGBTQ Environments: Academia and Beyond" April 4-5, 2008

At the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

The 3rd Annual Conference of the University of Wisconsin System Inclusivity Initiative for LGBTQ People will bring together academics, teachers, students, community leaders, activists, and others whose lives have been or could be enriched by LGBTQ Studies. Contact Lisa Beckstrand, lbeckstrand@uwsa.edu for

more information.

PositiveVOICE's Transgender Transformation Group will be presenting at this conference on April 5, 2008. The title of our session is: **Transgender Transformation Support Group: How to make it work.** This will be a panel discussion of members of the Transgender Transformation Support Group who discuss the importance of the group and how to facilitate starting a group. This group is growing in demand and popularity. This presentation will discuss the need for the group as well as the structure of the group. Members from the group will speak in addition to the Facilitator. Members of the group will share the impact that the group has had on them and how it has helped them in their coming out process and/or transitioning process.

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: _____ Optional Information:
 Address: _____ Home Phone: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____ Work Phone: _____
 Today's Date: _____ 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.

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.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of PositiveVOICE has been scheduled for May 12 at Liberty Hall in Kimberly. Time and special guest speaker to be announced. Mark your calendars!

Thank you

By: Gail Simonds

Many thanks for the donation of household and office items to Angels of Hope MCC. We're especially grateful for the chairs, which are now in our fellowship hall. They allow us to extend a more comfortable hospitality to the groups that use our building.

Again, our thanks for your generosity.



Liberty Hall

800 Eisenhower Dr.
Kimberly, WI 54136
414 731 0164
414 731 0174 FAX

Mike Van Asten, President

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3607 Libal Street, Green Bay
724 E. South River Drive, Appleton

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and 6pm in Appleton

To learn more, call 920-983-7453
Email: aohmcc@netnet.net



PFLAG

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

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

Calendar of Events – 2008

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.

Monday Evenings: Spectrum at Harmony Café: A weekly drop-in program for GLBT folk sponsored by PositiveVOICE and Harmony Café from 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Upcoming PositiveVOICE Board Meeting: Monday, February 4 at the Multicultural Center in Appleton: Members are welcome to attend the monthly board meetings beginning at 7:00 p.m. Meetings alternate from meeting in Green Bay and Appleton. Refer to the newsletter or the website for location updates!

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!



PositiveVOICE
PO Box 1381
Green Bay, WI 54305-1381

ADDRESS FORWARDING REQUESTED