
LGBT News

The LGBT Resource Center of the
7 Rivers Region, Inc.

Announcing October 2006!

On November 7, a fair Wisconsin will vote NO...

...but only if you help!

It's just over a month until the election. We've been talking about this election for so long, it's seemed sometimes like it would never actually arrive. But it's just about here. On November 7, Wisconsin voters will go to the polls and decide whether or not to inscribe discrimination into our state constitution. We can defeat the amendment. We *can* win in Wisconsin. But it's a close race, and in order to win, we all need to help, each of us in her own way.

Here are some of the things we can do. Look them over, and see which ones work for YOU. Please make a commitment to do whatever you can in this last month. Because if we all do that, we will win in Wisconsin in November!

Get informed. Go to the website fairwisconsin.com and get the facts and learn the talking points, so you can talk about the issues. Not online? Call Rob at 608.784.9151 or rob.nipko@fairwisconsin.com for materials.

Talk to people. Polls show a significant percentage of voters are undecided. Take any opportunity you can to talk to people about the amendment, and why you are voting NO. This election will be won one conversation at a time. Every conversation matters.

Talk to people in groups. Consider hosting a coffee hour...an informal gathering of co-workers or neighbors to talk about the amendment. If you like, I can arrange for a speaker to come to your gathering.

Talk to people at the door. Canvassing just isn't as scary as you might think. Everyone who does it for the first time shows up nervous, and comes away saying, "That wasn't so bad!" Canvassing is an extremely effective way to move undecided voters to our side. Contact Rob Nipko, our La Crosse area field organizer: (608) 784-9151 or rob.nipko@fairwisconsin.com

Talk to people in print. There have been a couple great letters to the editor of the *La Crosse Tribune*. Would you like to join their ranks? Go ahead! Feel like you'd like some help? Contact MaryO at admin@7riverslgbt.org.

Donate. TV ads are expensive, but very effective. Our community has already been generous to the campaign, as have donors big and small all over the state. Now we are all asked to look once more at our resources. Can you make another donation?

Vote No. Get out and vote on November 7.

Thank you all so much for all you do for our community! You are the reason that we will win in November!

Francie Ball, for the fair Wisconsin campaign

Center Activities for October 2006

Gender Queer/Transgender Gathering at the Center:

Do you identify as gender queer? How about Transgender? Do you ever feel like you don't fit in because of your gender identity or expression? Then join the for a monthly discussion group at the 7 Rivers LGBT Center. The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00. For more information contact: vanroose.kath@uwlax.edu. For upcoming meeting dates, check the Center [website calendar](#)

Genderqueer - A gender variant person whose gender identity is neither male nor female, is between or beyond genders, or is some combination of genders. This person may want to challenge gender stereotypes and the gender binary system.
Transgender - A person who lives as a member of a gender other than that expected based on anatomical sex.

New Center Hours:

Thanks to the generosity of our AmeriCorp volunteer, the Center is now open on weekends. The new hours are 1:30 to 6:00 on Mondays and Thursdays, Friday from 5:00 to 8:00, and Saturday from 11:00 to 5:00. Take advantage of these new hours to drop by YOUR Center and find out what it has to offer. Volunteer to organize a card night or other social event during our expanded hours.

Women's Book Group:

The women's books group is reading Shari Tepper's book, **Grass** for this month. The discussion will take place at 4:30 on Sunday, October 29. See the Center website calendar for more details: <http://www.7riverslgbt.org/calendar.htm>

Coming Out Week

October 11 is National Coming Out Day. The Human Rights Campaign started Coming Out Day in 1987 and keeps a [history of special](#) events beginning in that year. In addition, the HRC provides [Coming Out Day kits](#). Locally Winona and UW-La Crosse have events during the week.

"Coming out - The process in which a person first acknowledges, accepts and appreciates his or her sexual orientation or gender identity and begins to share that with others" (HRC, 2006.).

From the UW-L Pride Center: Why do people feel the need to come out? Because in the year 2006 we still assume that the people we meet are heterosexual. Because it is still legal in 32 states to fire a person or deny them housing based solely on the fact that they are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Queer (LGBQ) or perceived to be LGBQ. Because in Wisconsin you can be discriminated against because of your gender identity or gender expression or perceived gender identity or expression. Because Coming Out and living openly is not something you do once, or even for one year. It's a journey that we make every single day of our lives. Please join the Pride Center for our Coming Out Day Celebrations and support our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning students/faculty/staff, their allies and those with LGBTQ family members.

Area Events

WHAT: Coming Out Panel and Video

WHEN: Wednesday, October 10

WHERE: Port O'Call on UW-L campus

TIME: 7:00-8:00 pm

WHAT: Diedre McCalla

WHEN: Wednesday, October 11

WHERE: the Solarium on the Winona State University campus

TIME: 7:00 pm

WHAT: Come Out and Celebrate with Us!

WHEN: Wednesday, October 11

WHERE: Clock Tower on UW-L campus

TIME: 9:00am to 4:00 pm

WHAT: Ellis: Voted five time winner of the reader's choice award of Best Musician in the Twin Cities (Lavender Magazine) and Best Musical Artist (Minnesota Women's Press), Ellis has maintained a loyal local following despite her full-time touring schedule. Her music has been described as joyful, unpretentious acoustic rock with influences of folk and a slight hint of country flavor.

WHEN: Wednesday, October 12

WHERE: Valhalla on the UW-L campus
TIME: 8:00 pm

WHAT: The Fall of Gender, an evening of transgender training
WHEN: Wednesday, October 11
WHERE: Call UW-L for location
TIME: 7:00 pm

Thank You Lynn

Talking to people and sharing our stories is the way we are going to defeat the constitutional amendment banning civil unions and marriage on November 7. The new Fair Wisconsin ad that tells part of the story of Lynn's and Jean's struggle to care for and protect each other and their daughter through the year of Jean's dying is a powerful and moving message.

I so admire Lynn's courage and thank her for allowing her story to be used. It will certainly win voters to the No on the Amendment side. If you have not seen the ad, you can view it [here](#). To read more of the story and to thank Lynn for allowing her story to be told, visit: <http://www.getthefactswi.com/>

We do not all have a story as powerful and moving as Lynn's, but we do all have stories to share. We may not be in a TV ad, but we can all talk to those who know us and love us or respect us at work. We can volunteer to canvass on Saturdays or Mondays from now until November 7. We can volunteer to do phone calls or enter data at the La Crosse Fair Wisconsin field office.

What we cannot do is sit back and expect someone else to win this battle for us.