

GSA Newsarama
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As always if you are no longer interested in receiving this update, simply reply to this email requesting that your name be removed from the list. Please include your current school (or previous school, if you graduated or are no longer in school).

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Feature

Local GSAs get engaged with the amendment

Several schools are off to a great start in figuring how they are getting engaged with the effort to educate both their classmates and Wisconsin voters about the proposed ban on civil unions and same-sex marriage. Students at Oregon are currently planning a fundraiser to officially "sponsor" a television ad for Fair Wisconsin (NEAT idea!). These ads help reach thousands of undecided voters and community members. Members of the Oregon GSA are also planning a mock debate or similar educational event to occur on November 7th – the day of the Election!

Students at Madison Memorial High School have told us about plans to do a door to door canvass with Fair Wisconsin within the next couple of weeks. Folks who have canvassed with Fair Wisconsin before know that this is an important way to educate voters about the amendment – particularly the difference between a "yes" vote and a "no" vote.

Thanks and good luck to all Oregon and Madison Memorial students in their efforts. Be sure to let GSA for Safe Schools know about efforts in your school or community. Keep the good ideas coming!

P.S.

There are lots of ways to volunteer with Fair Wisconsin, who are working to ensure equal treatment for LGBT folks in Wisconsin. Visit www.fairwisconsin.com/volunteer/index.html.

1. October 14th GSA conference – let us know who is coming

This is a quick reminder that GSAs and student clubs should email or fax me the names of folks who plan to attend our October 14th GSA Conference. The conference will be held at Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ in Madison (1501 Gilbert Road, Madison, WI 53703). Registration fee is \$8 (scholarships available), and the conference runs from 9 am – 5 pm.

Many of your peers are putting together workshops that will help you have a kick-butt GSA or student group this year. Come ready to have an awesome time!

If you still need registration form, see your GSA advisor, or email us at brianj@gsaforsafeschools.org.

2. "I'm Engaged!" t-shirt orders due this Friday

Don't forget to email or fax the completed order form by this Friday, October 6th. Since it's impossible to send payment via email or fax (for the most part), please send payment to "GSA for Safe Schools, 301 S Bedford St, Ste 1, Madison, WI 53703." T-shirts are \$9.50 each. Checks should be made out to "GSA for Safe Schools."

For a look at the shirt and/or for a downloadable order form, please visit:

<http://www.gsaforsafeschools.org/amendment.html>

We are printing to order, so don't miss out on your chance to proudly wear this shirt. Shirts should be available by the end of the third week of October. If you are ordering individually (not through a GSA or student club) please include \$3 for shipping for up to two shirts. Add \$1.50 for shipping for each additional shirt.

3. Panel Project extended – Add your voice!

Thanks to everyone who has already let us know that your student club or group is planning to create quilt squares for the Panel Project. Each square is a response to the question, "What do you want Wisconsin voters to know about the proposed ban on civil unions and same-sex marriage?"

We've received almost 100 completed squares so far, but we want more! Please consider adding your voice to this project. We hope to receive panels from all across the state.

Please send completed panels to GSA for Safe Schools (301 S Bedford St, Ste 1, Madison, WI 53703) by October 31st. Receiving them by that time will allow us to post them to our Panel Project blog.

For more information about the project visit:
http://www.gsaforsafeschools.org/amend_youth.html

To view sample panels visit:
<http://www.thePanelProject.blogspot.com>

4. Get Engaged! Day of Education Oct 25th

On Wednesday, October 25th we are inviting Wisconsin youth to educate others and to speak out about the proposed ban on civil unions and same-sex marriage. Our goal is to provide students an opportunity to share their opinions about the ban through real-life opportunities for civic engagement and activities.

Many people feel that young people will be the ones who help swing the vote towards fairness in November. This includes those of you who can't yet vote. Even if you can't yet vote, your voice matters! You have the power to impact the outcome of this important vote.

No effort is too small – every act of education is valuable!

So get engaged, and let us know what your plans are. For copies of a resource guide to help you plan your event, please email or call Brian J. -- brianj@gsaforsafeschools.org, 608.661.4141.

NOTE: Many schools have rules and guidelines for dealing with “controversial issues.” Be sure to investigate what your school does or doesn't allow before planning an event. Remember that as individuals in school you have the right to both have and express your opinion on this issue. If you hit a wall, be ready to think outside the box. If you hit even more walls, contact Brian J.

Related Readings

GSA Newsarama is a publication of GSA for Safe Schools (GSASS). Events, resources, and news items listed under "Related Readings" are not sponsored or written by GSASS, and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of GSASS.

5. Proud Theater accepting new members

Proud Theater is holding open enrollment. If you are interested in joining this dynamic, cool, kick-butt theater group, now would be the time to check them out. Proud Theater regularly performs at GSA conferences and in schools around south central Wisconsin.

For more info contact proudtheater@gmail.com

6. Madison PFLAG Plans Family Canvass Oct 15

The Madison chapter of Parents, Family and Friends of Gays and Lesbians (PFLAG) has extended an invite to all students to join them on a family-themed canvass on Sunday, October 15th in Madison. If you can, consider asking your family (however you define it) to join you with PFLAG on that day?

To sign up visit www.fairwisconsin.com/volunteer/index.html. Or contact Diane Wensel at dianewensel@hotmail.com

7. GLSEN Ally Week Oct 15-21

Who can help us the most to end anti-LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) bullying and harassment in school? ALLIES!

Ally Week is October 15 - 21, 2006. GLSEN is continuing to encourage educators to support students to end anti-LGBT bullying and harassment in K-12 schools with our 2nd annual Ally Week! Ally Week is about students identifying and supporting allies by asking them to sign the Ally Pledge to intervene if they witness bullying and harassment in their schools. Ally Week activities will be most successful if you help support allies in learning how to intervene, and by making them feel proud to be allies! Ally Week can be as simple as passing out buttons to allies who sign the pledge, or can involve an event or series of events planned throughout the week. For a listing of possible Ally Week activities and to download our new Ally Week Planning Resource go to www.dayofsilence.org/ally <blocked::<http://www.dayofsilence.org/ally>> .

Register your participation. Register your participation now at www.studentorganizing.org and receive free Ally Week posters, postcards, and other organizing materials!

For questions contact Holiday Simmons, the GLSEN Days of Action Associate at hsimmons@glsen.org <blocked::mailto:hsimmons@glsen.org> .

8. October 15th is National Latino AIDS Awareness Day

Latinos in the United States continue to be disproportionately affected by the HIV and AIDS epidemic, with the second highest AIDS case rate in the nation. (Kaiser Family Foundation. HIV/AIDS Policy Fact Sheet: Latinos and HIV/AIDS. February 2006).

[<http://www.kff.org/hiv/aids/upload/6007-03.pdf>
<<http://ent.groundspring.org/EmailNow/pub.php?module=URLTracker&cmd=track&j=98188772&u=928353>>]

Social, economic, and cultural barriers limit the ability of many Latino youth to receive accurate and adequate information on preventing HIV, STIs, and unwanted pregnancy. Latino youth need 1) comprehensive, accurate information and 2) culturally competent, confidential, and affordable services in order to help stop the spread of HIV.

For more information about Latino youth, please read:

The Facts--Youth of Color: At Disproportionate Risk of Negative Sexual Health Outcomes
<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/factsheet/fsyouthcolor.htm>
<<http://ent.groundspring.org/EmailNow/pub.php?module=URLTracker&cmd=track&j=98188772&u=928354>>

>From Research to Practice--The Sexual Health of Latina Adolescents--Focus on Assets
<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/frtp/latina.htm>
<<http://ent.groundspring.org/EmailNow/pub.php?module=URLTracker&cmd=track&j=98188772&u=928355>>

Please visit Advocates for Youth Web sites:

<http://www.mysistahs.org>

<<http://ent.groundspring.org/EmailNow/pub.php?module=URLTracker&cmd=track&j=98188772&u=928356>> - by and for young women of color

<http://www.ambientejoven.org>

<<http://ent.groundspring.org/EmailNow/pub.php?module=URLTracker&cmd=track&j=98188772&u=928357>> - for Spanish speaking GLBTQ youth (Web site is in Spanish)