

GSA Newsarama
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January 8, 2007

This newsletter is created by Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools to keep students, advisors and other community members up-to-date on the issues, events and news items that may be of interest to those working within Wisconsin schools, communities, gay-straight alliances and similar clubs. 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 have graduated or are no longer in school.

Feature

GSA for Safe Schools Scholarship Applications Now Available!

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Feature

GSA for Safe Schools awards four scholarships of \$500 every year to students who have worked to improve their schools and communities for LGBTQ people and their allies. Applications are now available to download through our website, www.gsaforsafeschools.org. All applications must be received by March 15th and

will be kept confidential. The scholarship recipients will be announced in April and will be awarded at our Celebration of Leadership at the Monona Terrace on May 19th!

Headlines

1. GSA for Safe Schools Spring Conference rescheduled for March 2nd

The date is set for our Spring Conference! The event will be held on Friday, March 2nd at the Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ in Madison. Registration information will be sent out shortly, so mark your calendars and tell your friends!

2. 8th Annual Martin Luther King Youth Service Day – register now!

On January 15th, youth from across Dane County will honor the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by spending “A Day On, Not A Day Off” from 8AM to 3:30PM at the Monona Terrace in Madison. The day’s activities will include youth-led breakout sessions, performances by local artists, a presentation of the President’s Student Service Awards and a march on the Capitol Square. After marching, the students attending the event will participate in community service projects throughout the county.

Registration and event information can be viewed at the Urban League of Greater Madison’s website (www.ulgm.org) or by downloading this flyer: http://www.ulgm.org/files/MLK_event_flyer_2007.pdf

3. Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin seeks volunteers

Youth SOS is seeking volunteer candidates for a variety of services, including the Crisis Line and Youth and Family Counseling. Given the diversity of their service users, Youth SOS would like to stress the need for volunteers who come from a variety of different backgrounds. Volunteers with the ability to speak more than one language are especially desired. Volunteers must be at least 14 years of age and will be required to attend an interview as well as a series of training classes. For more information, please visit www.youthsos.org.

4. National and Global Youth Service Day planning committee seeks student planners

The United Way of Dane County is looking for dedicated middle and high school students to take part in the planning and organizing of their National and Global Youth Service Day, which will take place on April 21st, 2007. Some of the responsibilities of this planning committee would be developing a TV commercial with the help of Charter Communications, designing t-shirts (that would be worn by thousands of people), contacting local politicians and planning service events as well as the day's programming. Meetings will be typically held one night a week. To learn more about being a youth planner or to join the committee, contact Julian Haynes at the United Volunteer Center at julianh@uwdc.org.

5. WI Dept. of Health and Family Services survey – last week to participate!

In case you haven't taken a moment to fill out this survey yet (or if you're receiving GSA Newsarama for the first time) The Department of Health and Family Services and the State Department of Public Instruction still want to hear from youth about their experiences in learning about making healthy sexual choices. The survey focuses on three main areas:

- i. How adults influence your sexual health choices
- ii. What topics are important to influence your choices
- iii. What methods/strategies of delivering the message work best

This survey is being endorsed by GSA for Safe Schools and Diverse and Resilient and will help in the development of sexual health education in Wisconsin schools and training for teachers and parents. Please take 10 minutes to fill out the survey and email us with any suggestions or feedback you may have. The survey may be taken by following the link below:

www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=561732755585

6. 2007 PFLAG Scholarship applications available online

For the fourth year, PFLAG is offering two levels of scholarships to students graduating in 2007 who have demonstrated an interest in serving the LGBT community. There are seven \$2,500 scholarships available, and three \$1,000 scholarships. In order to qualify, a student must have applied to an accredited higher education institution in pursuit of a bachelor's degree (this includes students pursuing an associate's degree with the intent of

transferring credits towards a bachelor's degree). Applications must be postmarked by February 14th. For more information on the scholarships, a profile of past recipients, sample cover letters or to download an application, please visit: <http://www.pflag.org/Scholarships.122.0.html>

7. PFUND Scholarships available for students attending school in Minnesota

If you are planning on attending school in Minnesota, you are eligible to apply for a scholarship through PFUND, an organization dedicated to strengthening LGBT communities and people in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest. Applications are due by February 1st and all materials may be downloaded by visiting this website: <http://www.pfundonline.org>

Related Readings

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

1. Santa Cruz Sentinel – Blood Drive Controversy Has Students Seeing Red

When the Red Cross came to Santa Cruz recently, 17 year-old Ronnie Childers of Harbor High volunteered for five hours and waited in line for three more to give blood, only to find out that he could not donate because of his sexual orientation. The Red Cross adheres very strictly to the regulations set forth by the FDA, and while no one questions the need for blood donations, questions are being raised as to whether or not schools should host organizations who select donors based on orientation and interview minors about their sex lives. For more details on this story, visit: <http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/archive/2006/December/24/local/stories/01local.htm>

2. 365Gay.com - Trans Athletes Fight to Have Medal Returned to Runner Who Failed Sex Test

Kristen Worley is a Canadian athlete who has undergone sexual reassignment surgery. Worley has begun a letter-writing campaign to the International Olympic Committee urging them to give back the medal that was

taken away from Indian runner Santhi Soundarajan after failing a gender test during the Asian Games in December. Worley is a cyclist who hopes to compete at the 2008 Summer Olympics. While the IOC does not prohibit people who have undergone sexual reassignment surgery from competing in the Olympics, Worley says that the current regulations make transgender athletes stand out rather than fit in. To read the full article, click on this link: <http://www.365gay.com/Newscon07/01/010507runner.htm>

3. New York Sun – Gov. Spitzer Committed to Proposing Same-Sex Marriage Legislation

Eliot Spitzer, the newly-elected Governor of New York has made a commitment to introduce legislation that would pave the way for same-sex marriage in his state by the end of his first year in office. While his top priorities include the economy and ethics reform, Spitzer declares New York is a “state that understands that the civil rights movement still has chapters to be written.” For more information about Gov. Spitzer and his comments, check out: <http://www.nysun.com/article/46141>

4. Boston Globe – Same-sex Marriage Ban Advances

The Massachusetts Legislature recently voted to advance a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriage. The amendment must move now to the next legislative session, where it would once again have to be approved by at least 50 lawmakers in order to be placed on the 2008 ballot. Massachusetts is still the only state in the nation that provides full marriage equality to same-sex couples. To learn more, or to view some of the responses to this recent development, visit: http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2007/01/03/same_sex_marriage_ban_advances/
