

**GSA Newsarama**  
**Volume 5, Issue 7**  
**January 23, 2007**

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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.

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**Feature**

Madison Middle School GSAs featured in Teaching Tolerance Magazine

**Headlines**

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**Feature**

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Teaching Tolerance magazine recently featured a wonderful article that cited the growing success of (and need for) gay-straight alliances in middle schools. The article focused on Madison, which has the highest per capita concentration of middle school GSAs in the country. Many local middle school students were quoted in the article, and we here at GSA for Safe Schools would like to THANK THEM TREMENDOUSLY for sharing their stories with us and the many readers of this magazine. The article also features quotes and anecdotes from local celebrities Bonnie Augusta, Brian Juchems, Jane Biondi, Rebecca Wennlund and Jo Jensen. To read the full article, copy this link to your browser, <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/magazine/features.jsp?p=0&is=40&ar=778>.

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## Headlines

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### 1. **Spring Conference materials are on their way!**

Last week GSA for Safe Schools sent out conference invitations and registration forms to advisors and guidance counselors all across the state. The Spring Conference will be held on Friday, March 2nd at the Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ in Madison. If your school does not receive these materials, please email me at [tim@gsaforsafeschools.org](mailto:tim@gsaforsafeschools.org) and I can send the information to you electronically. We also hope to have the registration material on our website shortly.

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### 2. **GSA for Safe Schools scholarship applications now available**

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](http://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 Monona Terrace on May 19th!

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### 3. **MLK Jr. Day - We want to hear your stories**

Last Monday was Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and we would love to hear from schools about what they did to honor the holiday. We are always looking for good ideas to share, so if your school or group is feeling proud of what you put together, please let us know!

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### 4. **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>

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### 5. **United Way still seeking student planners for National & Global Youth Service Day**

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](mailto:julianh@uwdc.org).

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#### **6. 2007 LEAGUE Foundation Scholarships now available**

The LEAGUE Foundation has been helping LGBT-identified students attend institutions of higher learning since 1996. In fact, last year one of the scholarships was awarded to a student from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. LEAGUE will be accepting applications until April 27th, 2007. To learn more about the scholarships that are available through LEAGUE or to download an application please visit: <http://www.league-att.org/foundation/>

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#### **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>.

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#### **Related Readings**

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

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#### **8. 365gay.com - Bid to Curb VA Gay Student Clubs Revived**

A new piece of legislation is being proposed in Virginia that would require parents of middle school and high school students to fill out permission slips stating which clubs they would NOT like their children joining. A similar bill, requiring parents' permission before high school students can join a club, died last week in committee. Read more about this effort to limit students' access to gay-straight alliances at <http://www.365gay.com/Newscon07/01/012207club.htm>.

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#### **9. Santa Cruz Sentinel - Hate in the Mail for Gay Would-Be High School Blood Donor**

Ronnie Childers, the high school student who was denied the ability to donate blood because of his sexual orientation, has been receiving hate mail since speaking out against the Red Cross' policies. While he may not have the support of the entire community in Santa Cruz, the principal of his school is standing behind Childers and is helping to put together efforts to get the law changed. Read more about it at <http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/archive/2007/January/16/local/stories/04local.htm>.

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**10. Southern Voice - Gay Club Encounters Hostility at Florida School**

A high school student in Florida has become a target of ridicule and harassment since the ACLU became involved with her fight to get a gay-straight alliance at her school. Yasmin Gonzalez of Okeechobee has been holding her club meetings at an athletic complex about a mile from the school. To read the whole story please visit <http://www.southernvoice.com/2007/1-5/news/legal/legal.cfm>.

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**11. Wisconsin State Journal - City Council OKs Protest Oath**

The state of Wisconsin made national news recently when the city council of Madison voted to allow an official protest of the ban on gay marriage to be added to the oath of office. Those taking an oath of office will have the option to declare their commitment to see the amendment overturned and to prevent any discrimination come as a result of it. To learn more about the protest and what the opposition has to say about it, read the full story at <http://www.madison.com/wsj/home/local/index.php?ntid=115160>.

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**12. HRC.org - 2007 List of Best Places to Work (for GLBT Equality)**

The Human Rights Campaign has released their 2007 top list of companies that support equal treatment for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. 140 companies received perfect scores on the rating scale this time around. To view the full list, or to learn more about how these companies are being rated, please visit <http://www.hrc.org/placestowork>.

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