



EGN

Erie Gay News



Alex Sphon, Gov. Tom Wolf, Tony Gressley, and Caitlyn Strohmeyer at Keystone Pride Conference.

Keystone Pride Conference Roundtable

by Tony Gressley, NW PA Pride Alliance

On March 20, the Keystone Pride Conference brought together ten pride organizations from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. NW PA Pride Alliance was represented by board president Alex Sphon and entertainment coordinator Tony Gressley. TransFamily of Erie was represented by their organization's president, Caitlyn Strohmeyer.

The groups from Philadelphia, New Hope, Harrisburg, northwestern Pennsylvania, Reading, northeastern Pennsylvania, Chester County, Schuylkill County, Rowan University, South Jersey, and Staten Island discussed the topics of volunteers, entertainment, youth participation, and Trans inclusion (with the latter being lead by NW PA Pride and TransFamily of Erie).

The groups met at the State Capitol building, in a room secured by Rep. Brian Sims. About halfway through the day-long event, Governor Tom Wolf stopped by to thank the organizers for their work and promised to move the Fairness Act through the General Assembly as soon as possible.

Gov Wolf Expands Non-Discrimination Protections for State Workers, Contractors

Harrisburg, PA, April 7, 2016 – Governor Tom Wolf signed two executive orders that expand protections from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender expression or identity for state employees and, for the first time, employees of contractors doing business with the commonwealth. Governor Wolf's executive orders come as the Pennsylvania Fairness Act, which would apply these protections to all Pennsylvania workers, remains stalled in the General Assembly.

"With no sign that Republican leaders plan to free this bill that has broad, bi-partisan support, I am taking action to protect those that I can and send a signal to the country that Pennsylvania is open for business no matter who you are or whom you love," Governor Wolf said. "What happened in North Carolina, and what is going on in other states, should be a call to pass non-discrimination legislation in Pennsylvania now."

More details on the executive orders at www.governor.pa.gov or you can read the story from the link at our website.

CVC's Martine Barclay Holquist wins Sexual Assault Awareness Month national contest

"How do you help transgender survivors weather the storms?"

FORGE is a national organization based out of Wisconsin whose mission is to support, educate and advocate for the rights and lives of transgender individuals and SOFFAs (Significant Others, Friends, Family, and Allies).

In honor of April's Sexual Assault Awareness

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The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information, and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people (GLBTs), their families, friends, and supporters in the Erie PA area.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments, and opinions of interest to local GLBTs for publication in these pages. Please include your contact information with any piece you submit.



Click on the PDFs for this & previous issues of EGN from 1992.
 Also, check out our Photo Galleries, Videos, Contests, Reviews & much more!



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HALF HORZ.	\$90 - \$81 Prepaid	3 1/2" high X 6" wide
FULL PAGE	\$160 - \$144 Prepaid	7 1/2" high X 6" wide

Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month.
 Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES.
 All hardcopy ads submitted will be reproduced as close as possible.

Erie Gay News is now included in **The EBSCO *LGBT Life***® with Full Text Index & Six LGBT Archives **WORLDWIDE!**



To Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel for hosting! Alex, Andrea, Audrey, Johauna, Kim, Matt Pepicello, Rex Apps, Trish Catalano, and Valerie Miles for folding; Andrea, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Kim, Matt Pepicello, Rex Apps, and Trish Catalano for distribution; Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

Community News

Month (SAAM), FORGE held a contest to design an adult coloring page to be used for both trans survivors of sexual violence and victim serving agencies to assist trans survivors, in conjunction with the prompt, "how do you help transgender survivors weather the storms?"

Erie local Martine Barclay Holquist, from Crime Victim Center, was awarded first place for her submission. Ms Barclay Holquist's winning page is being featured in FORGE's social media as people are encouraged to color and/or write and share their thoughts on transgender and gender non-binary sexual violence.

To find Ms Barclay Holquist's page, and five others, please visit forge-forward.org. FORGE requests that you share with the hashtag #SAAMTransUmbrella on social media and encourages everyone to tag them.

Congratulations to Ms Barclay Holquist on winning the contest and shining a positive light on the efforts Erie is making in trans and gender non-binary sexual violence awareness.

TransFamily of NW PA seeks board members

from TransFamily of NW PA

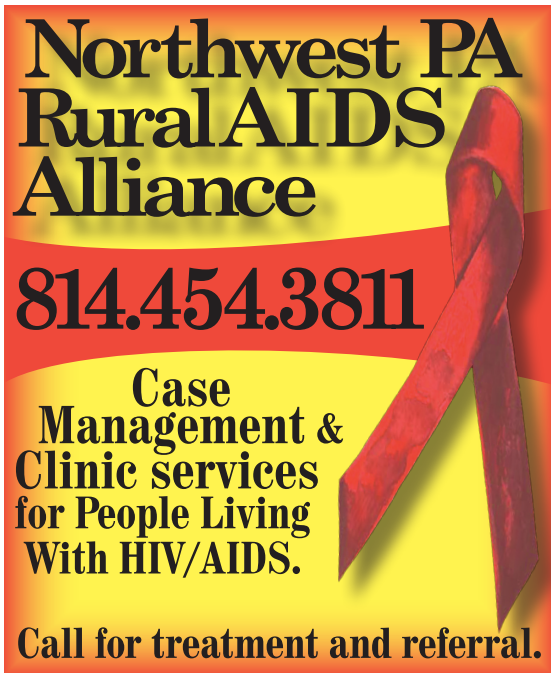
TransFamily is in the process of organizing as a nonprofit under the name TransFamily of NW PA, and we recently began putting together a board of directors. All officer positions are filled, and we are in need of 3 more people to reach our full compliment of 11 board members. Board members are expected to serve for a period of two years.

The mission of TransFamily of NW PA is to support the transgender community, as well as those who are questioning, their loved ones, family members, and allies. We work towards greater understanding of people who are transgender through advocacy, education, and community engagement.

We have the following minimal qualifications:

Required:

1. Must live within our service area, which includes all counties from Warren to the Ohio line, and from Mercer County north to Lake Erie.



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Community News

2. Must be able to attend all board meetings, which are held in downtown Erie the first Sunday of each month from 12:30pm to 2pm.

3. Must have a commitment to social justice and transgender equality.

Preferred, but not required

1. Fundraising experience

2. Previous board experience

If you are interested in joining our board, please submit a personal statement to caitlynxpress@gmail.com. You may also include a copy of your resume, however, this is not required.

This personal statement should reflect how you meet the qualifications listed above, any volunteer or board experience you may have, why you are interested in fighting for trans* equality, and what you hope to bring to the organization with respect to skills/abilities/experience.

**DEADLINE for next issue of EGN is
MAY 15**

Recap: Mar 24 Candidate Forum

from Michael Mahler

Erie Gay News and Mental Health Association of NW PA (MHA) jointly held a candidate forum on Thursday, March 24 at MHA, 1101 Peach St, Erie PA. The forum focused on LGBT, mental health and poverty issues. *Erie Gay News* had previously sent out candidate questionnaires on LGBT issues to all major party candidates for US Senate, US Congress PA-3 and PA-5, PA State Senate District 49 and PA State House Districts 1,2,3,4 and 6 and invited candidates from both parties to the forum.

Both local TV news teams provided coverage. The forum was moderated by Ron Ames. Candidates attending/represented included Ron DiNicola for Hillary Clinton (candidate for US President - D), Judi Roth for Joe Sestak (candidate for US Senate - D), Sean Wiley, candidate for PA State Senate District 49 (D-Incumbent), Pat Harkins, candidate for PA State House District 1 (D-Incumbent), Flo Fabrizio, candidate for PA State House District 2 (D-Incumbent), and Peter

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Zimmer, candidate for PA State House District 6 (D).

Light refreshments were served, and there was a good turnout. *Erie Gay News* and MHA are looking forward to holding another candidate forum in the fall for the general election. The forum will be October 6 and the general election is on November 8.

Photos of event at www.eriegaynews.com

Recap: Erie Transgender Day of Visibility

from *Caitlyn Strohmeyer*

On Thursday, March 31, Erie observed the International Transgender Day of Visibility for the first time. Transgender community members and their friends and family came together to talk about the discrimination and difficulties faced by transgender people, but also their strength and growth, and to advocate for Pennsylvania to pass the Fairness Act. Currently, there is nothing at the state level that protects people in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodations on the bases of gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation. Those categories have been covered by the Erie County Human Relations Commission since March 8, 2002.

Erie Times News covered the event and included a photo and article in the next day's edition.

Speakers at the event included Caitlyn Strohmeyer, Melanie Shubitowski, Tyler James Titus, and Jewels, an 11 year old trans girl. Supporters spoke as well, including Ashley, a professor at Behrend writing a children's book for trans youth as a community project.

The event was initially organized by Daye Pope of Equality PA Trans and Caitlyn Strohmeyer of Trans-Family of NW PA. The event was originally slated to be in Perry Square, but was moved to the Mental Health Association of NW PA, 1101 Peach St, Erie PA, due to thunderstorms in the weather forecast.

Photos of event at www.eriegaynews.com

In Memoriam

Matthew William Robison



Matthew Robison of Erie, passed away while camping in Idaho. He was 42.

Matthew was a strong advocate for human rights. One way that he demonstrated this was his concern for LGBT rights, serving on the Board of NW PA Pride Alliance.

He was a photographer and artist, and contributed his creative talents to NW PA Pride Alliance and elsewhere.

He loved nature and the environment, and was kind and compassionate to people and animals alike.

The world has lost a gentle and beautiful soul.

You can link to his obituary from our website. We are presently working on an online gallery of photos by and of Matthew.



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Health Issues survey

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is conducting a survey of LGBTQ people throughout the state to better understand the health needs of the community. It's time to hear from the people of Erie, Crawford, Mercer and Venango Counties! The surveys are completely anonymous and only take about 5-10 minutes to complete. The deadline to complete the survey is May 20.

"The state has already heard from many people throughout out PA, but it's important that LGBTQ people from every county are included. The responses collected now will have implications for funding and service priorities in the future", said PERSAD Center Executive Director Betty Hill. PERSAD is assisting the state in spreading the word and collecting surveys.

Time is limited and your voice is important. Make sure NWPA is included in the survey results. Take the survey at: surveymonkey.com/r/NW_PA.

LGBT opinion survey plus option to enter a drawing to win \$50

Erie Gay News would like to invite you to take a new survey about your opinions and preferences, from an LGBT perspective. You can also enter a drawing to win a \$50 cash prize just for filling out the survey.

There's power in our Pride! Participating in this study helps open doors—and minds—around the world, and influences positive changes for our community. Previous surveys have yielded 45,000 respondents from 150 countries! You may have seen Community Marketing & Insights quoted in the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Wall Street Journal*, etc.

Go to the link in the online version of this article to start the survey.

It should take 10-12 minutes to complete.

Everyone who completes the survey by May 31, 2016 may opt to be entered into a drawing to win one of twenty US \$50 cash prizes, or if you win, you can designate a charity to receive the \$50.

Please share this article and the link to the survey to LGBT friends around the world who may be interested in participating. And please post it to your Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts.



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Calendar

Detailed calendar listings in our online calendar
www.eriegaynews.com

Live & Let Live is an LGBTQA-friendly AA meeting that meets every Sunday, at 7PM, at Community United Church, 1011 West 38th Street, Erie, PA . For more information, visit www.aaeriepa.org.

May 1 (Sun) - Erie LGBTQIA Team for March for Babies (Penn State Behrend - Junker Center, 4701 College Drv, Erie, PA) Registration starts at 11am at the Junker Center with the march starting at 1pm. The Erie LGBTQIA team, will consist of members from NWPAPride Alliance, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, LBT Women of Erie, Erie Brothers and Sisters, The Table, and TransFamily of Erie. Everyone is encouraged to wear either their organization's shirts or rainbow colors. If you are unable to walk, donations will be accepted. If you are unable to donate, please considering walking. Contact: Alex Sphon. (814) 314-9075. asphon@nwpride.org.

May 1 (Sun) - ACLU "Evolving Standard of Decency: Changing the Conversation on Justice in Pennsylvania" (La Bella's Restaurant, 802 W. 18th St., Erie PA) "This year's Northwest Chapter Annual Meeting will feature Andy Hoover, ACLU-PA Legislative Director ... free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided." hbginfo@aclupa.org 717-238-2258 www.aclupa.org/chapters/northwestpa/

May 1 (Sun) - LBT Women meets (Brew Ha Ha at the Colony, 2612 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 12 PM. Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

May 1 (Sun) - TransFamily Youth meets (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 2 PM - 5 PM. "We provide a safe space for all youth who fit somewhere in the gender spectrum... We welcome anyone 21 and younger who identifies as gender-variant." Contact: Char Newport. www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie.

May 1 (Sun) - PFLAG Butler meets (Covenant Pres-

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byterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA) 5 PM - 8 PM. www.pflagbutler.com/.

May 1 (Sun) - Whispering Lake Grove Beltaine (Unitarian-Universalist Cong. of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) "Celebration honoring the fertility of the season." Doors open 5PM, ritual 6PM, potluck after. R www.whisperinglakegrove.org.

May 2 (Mon) - Art for Change -The Auction to Benefit PERSAD Center (Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown, 600 Commonwealth Pl, Pittsburgh, PA) G www.persadcenter.org/.

May 4 (Wed) - Worship at the Table (The Table, 3176 W. 41st Street, Erie, PA) 7 PM. www.thetableerie.com/.

May 6 (Fri) - G2H2 (Gay Guy/Gal Happy Hour) (Cloud 9 Wine Bar, 25 E 10th St, Erie, PA 16501) 6 PM - 8 PM. G2H2/Erie takes place every month in a new location around town, providing GLBT professionals, and our colleagues and friends, the opportunity to meet, network or just hang out once a month.

May 6 - 8 (Fri - Sun) - Opening Weekend - Welcome Back Boys! (Jones Pond 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) (585) 567-8100. www.jonespond.com.

May 7 (Sat) - LBT Women go to Art Museum Rummage Sale (Erie Art Museum, 411 State St, Erie, PA) 9 AM. Kim (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

May 7 (Sat) - AIDS Walk Buffalo 2016 (Evergreen Health Services, 206 Elmwood Ave, Buffalo, NY) www.aidswalkbuffalo.org.

May 7 (Sat) - Colors Unity Presents Veronyca's Showgirls (Magnano Reception Room, 260 N Union St., Olean, NY) 1 PM. www.facebook.com/colors.unity.

May 7 (Sat) - Cinco de Mayo (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. info@campdavisground.com. www.campdavisground.com.

May 7 (Sun) - Women on Fire - (1891 Fredonia Opera House, Fredonia NY) "Twelve emotionally charged monologues explore the breadth of women's issues with humor and wisdom." fredopera.org

May 7 (Sat) - Drag Show (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

May 8 (Sun) - Aging With Pride (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 4 PM - 6 PM. Group offering a safe, comfortable space for the older LGBT individual to seek support, friendship, social opportunities and discussion of issues of importance. (814) 455-4009. daleallgeier@outlook.com. www.lakeeriecounseling.com/

May 10 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6:30 PM. Support groups are open to public, light refreshments available. Contact: Marguerite youngstownpflag@aol.com. www.youngstownpflag.org/.


May 11 (Wed) - Theology on Tap (Calamari's Squid Row, 1317 State St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. www.thetableerie.com/

May 13 (Fri) - Cyndi Lauper in Pittsburgh Carnegie Music Hall Homestead 510 E. Tenth Ave. Pittsburgh, PA cynnilauper.com

May 13 - 15 (Fri - Sun) - Retro Weekend - Awesome 80's Party (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) (585) 567-8100. www.jonespond.com.

May 14 (Sat) - Spring Fling (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. www.campdavisground.com.

May 14 (Sat) - Erie LGBT Rainbow Alliance meets (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 1 - 3 PM. "safe, confidential space for



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<http://gayellowpages.com>

Calendar

LGBT community members to come together and share stories, struggles and resources about the LGBT experience“Co-facilitated by Chelsea Nicole and Dale Allgeier, LCSW. (814) 455-4009. EriELGBTRainbowAlliance@gmail.com.

May 14 (Sat) - TransFamily of Meadville meets (Counseling Center, 898 Park Ave., 2nd fl. Meadville, PA) 2 - 5 PM. “We provide a safe space for all who fit somewhere in the gender spectrum, or who are questioning” Contact: Richelle Kohler. richellekohler@hotmail.com. www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie.

May 14 (Sat) - Carnival Night (M & J’s Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

May 15 (Sun) - Deadline for Erie Gay News May 2016 print edition (Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA) Contact: Michael Mahler. (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

May 15 (Sun) - Michelle Michaels presents FACE Drag Show! (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. www.facebook.com/TheZoneDanceClub.

May 17 (Tue) - Bears Do Dinner (28 North Gastro-pub, 28 North Park Row, Erie, PA) 6:30 PM. Dinner is on your own. (814) 446-2327. info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com.

May 17 (Tue) - PFLAG Meadville meets (Stone United Methodist Church, 956 S Main St, Meadville, PA) 7 PM. Contact: Randy Herbert-Weed. (814) 724-6736. meadvillepflag@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/groups/PFLAGMeadville/.

May 17 (Tue)- Cyndi Lauper in Cleveland Hard Rock Live cyndilauper.com

May 18 (Wed) - Contemplation 101 at The Table (3176 W. 41st St. Erie, PA) 7 PM. www.thetableerie.com/.

May 20 - 22 (Fri - Sun) - Friends & Family - Flash-back Weekend (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) d www.jonespond.com.

May 20 - 22 (Fri - Sun) - Imperial Court of Buffalo Coronation XXVI - www.imperialcourtofbuffalo.com/

May 21 (Sat) - LBT Women go to Edinboro Art and Music Festival (Goodell Gardens, 221 Waterford St, Edinboro, PA) 1 PM. (814) 314-9512. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

May 21 (Sat) - Hag Drag (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) www.campdavicscampground.com.

May 24 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution

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Calendar

work party (Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel, 55 West Bay Road, Erie, PA 7 PM. Contact: Mike (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

May 25 (Wed) - Spirituality in Everyday Life at the Table (The Table, 3176 W. 41st Street, Erie, PA) 7 PM. www.thetableerie.com/.

May 27 - 30 (Fri - Mon) - Memorial Day Weekend - Army Weekend (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) (585) 567-8100. www.jonespond.com.

May 28 - May 29 (Sat - Fri) - Memorial Holiday Weekend at Camp Davis (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) www.campdavisground.com.

May 28 (Sat) - LBT Women go to Troika Russian Festival (Church of the Nativity, 251 East Front Street, Erie, PA) 12 PM. (814) 314-9512. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE. .

May 28 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets (Mental Health Assoc. of NW PA, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) 2 - 5 PM. Safe space for all who fit somewhere in the gender spectrum, or who are questioning. Contact: Caitlyn (814) 823-1969. caitlynxpress@gmail.com. www.facebook.com/TransfamilyOfErie.

May 28 (Sat) - Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Support Group meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Highway, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Support and encouragement for both MTF and FTM transgender individuals. (440) 265-8191. shub1@suite224.net. eriesisters.ning.com/.

Jun 4 (Sat) - Skirt Night (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) www.campdavisground.com.

Jun 4 (Sat) - 24th Annual Erie Pride Picnic (Rotary Pavilion, Presque Isle State Park, Erie PA) 1-6PM www.nwpapride.org

Jun 5 (Sun) - TransFamily Youth meets (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 2 -5PM 21 and younger. cmn0626@gmail.com.

Online Contests

Here are new contests for this month...

Contest	Begins
<i>Death Becomes Her</i> on Blu-ray	April 29
<i>NOW That's What I Call Broadway!</i>	May 3
Snakehips <i>All My Friends</i>	May 6
<i>Hunter</i> DVD	May 10
<i>Hearts Collide</i> by Lexxica	May 13
Tickets to <i>Kiss Me Kate</i> at Erie Playhouse	May 17
<i>Free Days with George</i>	May 20
<i>Boystown Season 5</i>	May 24
<i>When Your Child is Gay: What You Need To Know</i>	June 7

Here are contests which are currently active...

Contest	Ends
<i>Keb' Mo' LIVE - That Hot Pink Blues Album</i>	April 29
<i>Mind of Mine</i> from Zayn	May 3
<i>Boystown Season One</i> Audio Book	May 6
<i>Solosexual: Portrait of a Masturbator</i>	May 10
Troye Sivan <i>Youth</i> re-mixes	May 13
<i>MASH FAQ: Everything Left to Know About the Best Care Anywhere</i>	May 17

Sign up for the Erie GLBT News and Events list at our web site, and you will get first notice on new contests PLUS news and upcoming events!



Wedding Photos by: Eric Smyklo

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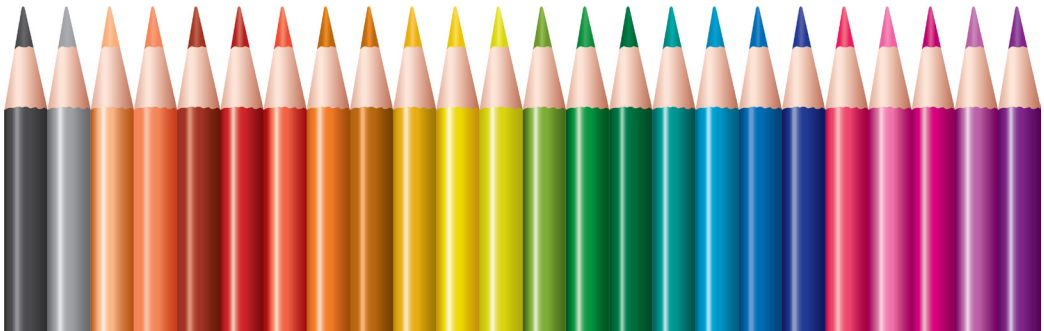
HEALTH SURVEY

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

The Pennsylvania Department of Health
is conducting a survey of LGBTQ people throughout
the state to better understand the health needs
of the community.

It's time to hear from the people of
Erie, Crawford, Mercer and Venango Counties!
The surveys are completely anonymous and only
take about 5-10 minutes to complete.

**MAKE SURE THE PEOPLE OF NWPA ARE REPRESENTED.
TAKE THE SURVEY TODAY!**



TAKE THE SURVEY AT: [surveymonkey.com/r/NW_PA](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NW_PA)