

State labor organization supports non-discrimination bill

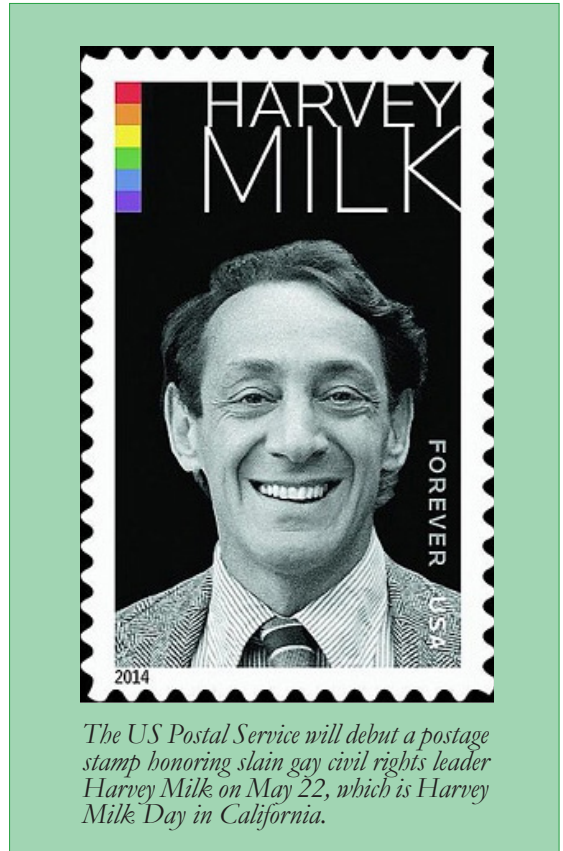
from Equality PA

Harrisburg, April 9 – Equality PA President of the Board, Adanjesus Marin, praised the Pennsylvania American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (PA AFL-CIO) for their support of SB 300/HB 300 PA AFL-CIO voted on a resolution today to partner with Equality PA to support the passage of the bills that amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act by prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

Michelle Kessler, Secretary Treasurer of United Food and Commercial Workers 1776 and National Coordinator of OUTreach for UFCW, said, “The current status quo in the Commonwealth leaves the majority of LGBT workers and their families without legal protections against discrimination in the work place and their communities, and that is unacceptable to us as union members who have a commitment to equality and justice.”

Marin continued, saying, “Discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people is real in 2014 and it must be stopped. If there’s one thing we can all agree on, it’s that everyone should have equal opportunity and a level playing field. The PA AFL-CIO has always been an advocate for equality and justice in the workplace and we are glad to have their support on this important campaign. With over 900,000 members, their support will go a long way.”

HB 300 and its counter part in the Senate, SB 300, have broad bipartisan support among organizations, faith communities, businesses, and voters. Both bills have bipartisan prime sponsors and the House bill has 96 co-sponsors including 12 Republicans. In a poll commissioned by Equality PA and done by Susquehanna Polling and Research in March of 2013 of both Democratic and Republican voters, respondents supported a non-discrimination bill in Pennsylvania by a margin of 72%.



Federal judge strikes down Ohio marriage ban

from Why Marriage Matters Ohio

On April 14, a federal judge ruled that Ohio must respect marriages of same-sex couples who have legally wed in other states. This ruling strikes down part of Ohio’s marriage ban, but same-sex couples still cannot marry in our state.

Judge Timothy Black stated that Ohio’s same-

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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.



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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.

Erie Gay News is now included in
The EBSCO *LGBT Life*[®]
with Full Text Index &
Six LGBT Archives
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To Mental Health Association of Northwestern Pennsylvania for hosting! Alex Sphon, Audrey, Johauna, Julie, Melanie Shubitowski, Season, and Sharon Dunfee for folding; Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Julie, Melanie Shubitowski, Season, and Sharon Dunfee 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

(continued from front page)

sex marriage ban was both unconstitutional and unenforceable.

But uncertainty still remains when, or if, same-sex couples will be respected as married in Ohio. Judge Black put a temporary stay on his ruling, and will decide soon whether to keep the stay in place or not.

This means for now, many Ohio families remain in legal limbo—wondering if their marriage will be recognized by the state of Ohio. It means parents may have to wait to place their names on their child's birth certificates, that married couples will be prevented from joining their spouses' health insurance plans and that couples will be prevented from filing their state taxes jointly. And it means that many loving and committed couples will continue to be discriminated against in their home state.

Attorney General DeWine can stop this uncertainty by allowing the ruling to stand and ensuring that all married couples in Ohio are recognized for what they are—married. Join Ohioans all across the state as we

call on Attorney General Mike DeWine to not appeal the ruling and allow Ohio's legally married same-sex couples to be recognized in the state they call home.

For more information and to sign the petition visit www.whymarriagemattersoh.org

2014 Primary Candidate Forum

from *NW PA Pride Alliance*

On Wednesday, April 16, NW PA Pride Alliance and other co-sponsoring groups presented a Candidate Forum on Wednesday, April 16 at 7 PM at First Niagara Bank Community Room, 27 people attended, including candidates Thomas Tarantella (US Congress PA-3 - D), Michael T Muha (PA State Senate 50 - D), Flo Fabrizio (P State House 2 D-Incumbent), Curt Smith (PA State House 4 - D), Juanita Shutsa (PA State House 6 - D) and Wayne Hanson (PA State House 17 - D). Additionally, Rob McCord (PA Governor - D) sent Jordan and Graham and Ryan Bizzarro (PA State House 3 - D-Incumbent) sent Linda McCabe. There was also coverage by both local TV news crews.

Co-sponsoring organizations included NW PA

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Community News

Pride Alliance, Erie Gay News, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality, LBT Women of Erie, Marriage Equality for PA, NW PA NOW, Pennsylvania Student Equality Coalition, Persad Center, PFLAG of Erie & Crawford Counties, and TransFamily of Erie Support Group.

Special thanks go out to board members Kelly Kidd for moderating, Alex Sphon for introductions and securing the site, Daniel Thomas for registration, Season Crannell for providing refreshments, and Matthew Robison for photography. Additional thanks to Erie Gay News co-editor Deb Spilko for photography.

The Fall General Election Candidate Forum will be Thursday, October 2.

Candlelight Vigil for Equality

from Marriage Equality for PA

About 20 people braved the cold to take part in a vigil for Marriage Equality on March 26 Perry Square in Erie. Similar actions took place around the state.

The vigil took place in front of the Federal Courthouse. The date was chosen to mark the one-year

anniversary of the Supreme Court decision striking down DOMA.

Speakers included Rev Steve Aschmann of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie. Tiffany Titus, who, with her wife Wendy, drove to Montgomery County to be legally wed when that county was issuing marriage licenses. Kathy Czarnecki-Smith, who went to the Erie County marriage bureau in February with her wife Tina and attempted to get a Pennsylvania marriage license. The couple has a marriage certificate from New York state, but were not able to get the paperwork from Pennsylvania. ME4PA co-founders Josh Szczesny and David Moore both spoke. David gave Mike Mahler an award on behalf of ME4PA recognizing Mike's work in support of Marriage Equality.

Dining Out for Life rescheduled

Dining for Life, the annual AIDS fundraiser held in western NY in April, has been rescheduled for October 2014. For details, contact Evergreen Health Services at (716)664-7855.



Meet Me in the Woods!



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See Website for Complete Schedule

Letters

MHA Warming Center Team for 2014 Highmark Walk

The 2014 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community Erie will take place Saturday June 7, 2014 at Presque Isle State Park. This year's Walk benefits 28 health and human services organizations.

One of those organizations is the Warming Center at the Mental Health Association. The Walk is the Warming Center's only fundraising event. The Warming Center provides overnight shelter to homeless persons during Erie's coldest nights. Our Warming Center is now in its sixth year, and this has been the most dangerous of winters in a population already at risk in so many ways.

In past years, we used our Highmark dollars along with the County contributions and put unused funds into a "kitty" for the next year. For five years, that was the strategy, and it worked well. This year, many of the churches sponsored overflow shelters to pick up any slack, and there had been predictions that the winter would be colder than usual—which proved to be an understatement. We were open almost 90 days—even with the assistance of the overflow shelters. The result was that we used all of the money left over from the previous year, in addition to the Highmark dollars, county funding, and sadly, have dipped into next year's money before we even received it.

Needless to say, this year's Walk is critical in more ways than one. For this reason alone, I am asking you to join my team on the walk. In the past, some of you have walked and raised money for this important cause. This year I am asking for more of the same, and also asking if you will reach out to your family, friends, and co-workers to join the team. The goal for each team member is \$100 and this year, if you choose, you may become a "virtual walker." That means you simply turn in your \$100 the day of the walk, and watch the rest walk their shoes off!

Please give some thought to joining the Team by helping those less fortunate than ourselves. Because it is so true that "There, but for the grace of God, go I."

Diana Ames
452-4462 ext. 141 (work),
431-8011 (cell), 456-1619 (home)

To sign up for Diana's team go to www.walkforahealthycom-

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for More Information

This ad is made possible by a Federal Grant
under the Ryan White Care Act of 1990.

Calendar

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

Apr 24-26 - Comedian Thomas Dale at JR's Last Laugh Comedy Club and Restaurant, 1402 State, Erie, PA. From his website: "Standup comedian, writer, and actor Thomas Dale is one of the fastest rising talents in the United States today. He's also a loveable, macho, gay Italian guido from Long Island who loves his mother. "(814) 461-0911 www.jrslastlaugh.com

Apr 24 (Thu) - The Laramie Project (Mercyhurst University, Taylor Little Theatre, 501 E 38th St, Erie, PA) 8 PM The Mercyhurst Theatre Program Presents: www.mercyhurst.edu/.

Apr 25 (Fri) - LBT Women of Erie are going to Jr.'s Last Laugh at 9:30 PM to see comedian Thomas Dale (\$12.50 per person; food and drinks available for purchase). Call or stop by the to add your name to our table (under the name "Kim Conti"). Jr.'s Last Laugh:

1402 State St., Erie PA, 814-461-0911

Apr 25 (Fri) - Country Night (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) \$5 cover, BYOB, membership required. (724) 602-8447. Email: JoshuaSean2009@aol.com www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

Apr 25 - 27 (Fri - Sun) - Jones Pond Opening Weekend - (9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) Welcome to Season 24! (585) 567-8100. info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

Apr 26 - Colors Unity Easter Dinner Membership Drive 4:30 p.m. at the Bethany Lutheran Church, Leo Moss Drive, Olean NY (next to the county building)\$12/single; \$20 /couple., \$5/9-17 yrs, 8 and under free. \$8 takeouts. (716) 244-8827 www.facebook.com/colors.unity RSVP to colors.14760@gmail.com.

Apr 26 (Sat) - Drag Night 5 Performers (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) \$5 cover, BYOB, membership required. (724) 602-8447. Email: JoshuaSean2009@aol.com www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

Apr 26 - 28 (Sat - Mon) - Camp Davis Opening

ACLU-PA Northwest Chapter 2014 Annual Meeting



the STATE
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*Voter ID: The Pennsylvania
Perspective*

With Sara Rose, Staff Attorney
ACLU of Pennsylvania

Sunday May 4, 2014-3-5pm
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RSVP encouraged by April 30th
northwestchapter@aclupa.org or 717-238-ACLU

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Calendar

Weekend (311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. campd@aol.com. www.campdavicampground.com.

Apr 26 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets (Mental Health Association of Northwestern Pennsylvania, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) 2-5 PM. Refreshments, free parking is available in a lot to the south of MHA. Please bring a snack to share. Contact: Caitlyn (814) 823-1969.

Apr 27 (Sun) - Michelle Michaels presents FACE (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. NOTE DATE CHANGE FOR APRIL DUE TO EASTER! Fun-filled night of great entertainment with all of your favorite drag queens, new drag queens and special guests the 3rd Sunday of the month. (814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

Apr 29 (Tue) - Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E. Jefferson Street, Butler, PA) 1 PM www.facebook.com/ButlerLgbtqInterfaithNetwork.

May 2 (Fri) - Name That Song contest (M & J's

Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) \$5 cover, BYOB, membership required. (724) 602-8447. Email: JoshuaSean2009@aol.com www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

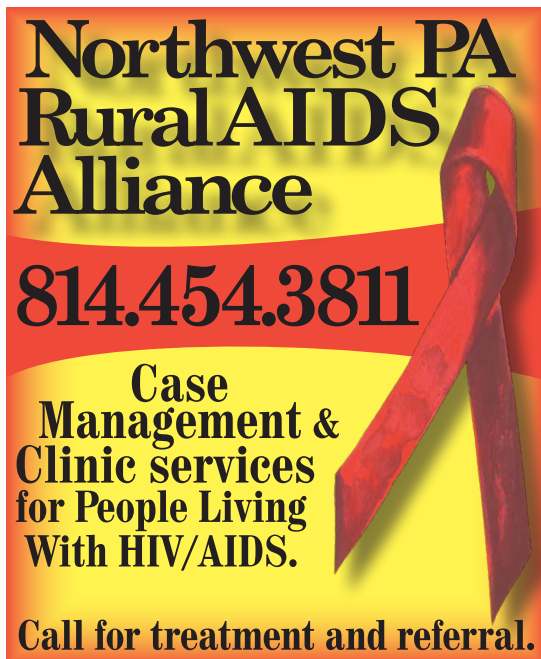
May 2 - 4 (Fri - Sun) - Cinco De Mayo - Margarita Madness (Jones Pond 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) (585) 567-8100. Email: info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

May 3 (Sat) - Mister and Miss Gay Jamestown 2014 Sky Bar 108 Fairmount Ave, Jamestown NY. Special guest performers will be announced soon. Also there will be a Latino Buffet after the crowning with dancing & drinking until 2am. \$50 entree fee, Registration between 2&4 pm no one can enter after 4 p.m.

May 3 (Sat) - Boxer Night (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) \$5 cover, BYOB, membership required. (724) 602-8447. Email: JoshuaSean2009@aol.com www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

May 4 (Sun) - Northwestern Chapter of ACLU PA's annual meeting (La bella, 802 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 3 - 5 PM. The event's keynote speaker will be Sara Rose, staff attorney with the ACLU of Pennsylvania. The State of Our Union - Voter ID: The Pennsylvania Perspective. Sara Rose will be discussing the current state of the ACLU of Pennsylvania's challenge to the commonwealth's controversial voter ID law. In addition, Chapter News will be shared by current Board Members and we will hold annual elections to the Board. This event is free and open to the public. RSVP are requested by April 30th to northwestchapter@aclupa.org or by calling 717-238-ACLU. www.aclupa.org/chapters/northwestpa/.

May 4 (Sun) - PFLAG Butler meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E. Jefferson St., Butler, PA)



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5 PM. (724) 602-8447. president@pflagbutler.com. www.pflagbutler.com.

May 4 (Sun) - Beltaine by Whispering Lake Grove (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) Doors open at 5:30pm ritual 6pm. Whispering Lake Grove, A.D.F. is a chartered subsidiary, branch and/or division of Ar nDraioct Fein, A Druid Fellowship, Inc. Info: Rev. Carrion Mann at carrionmann@gmail.com or Rev. Christopher Temple at grollwynn72@hotmail.com. www.whisperinglakegrove.org/.

May 9 (Fri) - Wine tasting (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) \$5 cover, BYOB, membership required. (724) 602-8447. Email: JoshuaSean2009@aol.com www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

May 9 - 11 (Fri - Sun) - Game Show Weekend! (Jones Pond 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) (585) 567-8100. Email: info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

May 9 (Fri) - Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus: Rise Up Singing (1891 Fredonia Opera House, 9-11 Church

St., Fredonia, NY) 8 PM. (716) 883-1277. www.buffalogaymenschorus.com/.

May 10 (Sat) - Beer Pong (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) \$5 cover, BYOB, membership required. (724) 602-8447. Email: JoshuaSean2009@aol.com www.facebook.com/MandJsLounge.

May 10 (Sat) - Pajama & Robe Party (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. Email:



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Calendar

campd@aol.com. www.campdavisground.com.

May 10 (Sat) - Veronyca's Showgirls Roast a Queen (Rockin' Ricks, 543 Spittler Lane, Limestone, NY) 10 PM. \$6 cover (702) 505-4771. www.myspace.com/rockinricks.

May 12 (Mon) - PFLAG Erie/Crawford County meets (Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) Support group for parents, friends and families of gay, lesbian and transgendered people. 7 to 8:30 PM. Contact: Alex Sphon. (814) 367-3311. pflag.erie.crawford@gmail.com.

May 12 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News June 2014 print edition Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA. Issue released evening of May 20. (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com

May 12 (Mon) - Art for Change Benefit for Persad Wyndham Grand in Downtown Pittsburgh. Every dollar raised goes toward Persad Center's Free Care Fund. Guests will enjoy roaming the galleries to bid on over 200 works of art, while taking in spectacular views of Point State Park. Discounted tickets are

available through April 30, and VIP ticket holders will meet our honorary chair, Tony-Award winning actor Billy Porter, in the VIP lounge. Auction and party highlights include: A verbal and silent auction, smorgasbord of food from 20 different area restaurants, silent auction gift baskets featuring vacation packages, restaurant gift certificates, luxury items, and cultural event tickets, electronic bidding from the palm of your hand, networking opportunities with art lovers, business leaders, and LGBTQ friends and allies. https://persadcenter.org/

May 14 (Wed) - RU12 - LGBT Social Group meets (Mental Health Association in Chautauqua Co., 31 Water St., Ste. 7, Jamestown, NY) 6 PM. Drive into big parking lot at Gateway Center, go to back of building to the smaller rear parking lot. You'll see a bright light over door 14. Enter there. Contact: Steven Michael Cobb. (716) 661-9044. chautauquamha@gmail.com.

May 16 - 19 (Fri - Mon) - Oh Canada! - It's a Long Weekend With Our Friends From the North! (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) (585) 567-8100. www.jonespond.com.

May 17 (Sat) - Springtime St. Patty's Party (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. campd@aol.com. www.campdavisground.com

May 17 (Sat) - LBT Women of Erie go to Edinboro Arts and Music Festival (Goodell Gardens and Homestead, 221 Waterford St., Edinboro, PA) Meet Kim and Andrea at 11a.m. free. Vendors will be selling food and crafts. (814) 314-9512. ErieBeans@aol.com. www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

May 17 (Sat) - Erie Sisters meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Highway, Erie, PA) 7 PM. (440) 265-8191



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May 18 (Sun) – LBT Women of Erie meeting at the Brew Ha Ha Coffee Shop, Noon, 2612 W 8th St, Erie, PA; NOTE DATE CHANGE FOR DAY DUE TO MOTHER'S DAY! For info or to let us know you'll attending, contact Kim at EricBeans@aol.com or (814) 314-9512.

May 18 (Sun) - Michelle Michaels presents FACE (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. Fun-filled night of great entertainment with all of your favorite drag queens, new drag queens and special guests the 3rd Sunday of the month. (814) 452-0125. www.thezonedanceclub.com/.

May 20 (Tue) - Pennsylvania Primary Election 7 AM - 8 PM. Please remember to vote!

May 20 (Tue) - Erie Gay News Folding/Distribution Work Party (Mental Health Association of NW PA, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) Help us get out the print edition of EGN. All ages welcome! (814) 456-9833. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

May 20 (Tue) - Spirituality and Sexuality Discussion Group meets (Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie, PA 7 PM. (Sept - May), Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Rich McCarty At Community United Church (an open and affirming congregation). 1-866-229-1974 (toll free). richmccarty@msn.com.

May 21 - GEAE Third Wed and Happy Hour event *Calamari's*

May 21 (Wed) - Bears Do Dinner (Golden Wok, 3202 Pittsburgh Ave, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Dinner is on your own. Contact: Gary Snyder. (814) 446-2327. info@drenchedfur.com. www.drenchedfur.com.

May 23 - 26 (Fri - Mon) - Memorial Day Military Weekend - a Few Good Men (9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) mail: info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

May 24 (Sat) - Camp Davis Holiday Weekend (311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) Dance Sat. and Sun.night (724) 637-2402. campd@aol.com. www.campdavis-campground.com.

May 24 (Sat) - LBT Women of Erie go to Troika

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Online Contests

Here are new contests for this month...

Contest	Begins
<i>First Legends of Disco</i> by James Arena	April 25
<i>Lady Peacock</i> DVD	April 29
<i>Sia Chandelier</i>	May 2
<i>Truth; Hot Guys With Guns</i>	May 6
<i>What To Do Before You Say 'I Do'</i>	May 9
<i>A Quick Guide To Film Directing</i>	May 13
<i>Momentitiousness</i>	May 16
<i>Birthday Cake</i>	May 20

Here are contests which are currently active..

Contest	Ends
<i>Best Gay Erotica 2014</i>	April 25
<i>Foolish Hearts: New Gay Fiction</i>	April 29
<i>Christ-Centered Consciousness</i> , by John Ryan	May 2
<i>Queens of the Apocalypse</i> , signed by Rob Rosen; Erik Hassle <i>Somebody's Party</i> EP	May 6
<i>Stephen King Films FAQ</i> by Scott Von Doviak; Betty Who <i>Slow Dancing</i> EP	May 9
<i>The Line</i> (Signed Copy) by J. D. Horn; <i>The Other Woman</i> prize pack; DCON-STRUCTED	May 13

More contests at eriegaynews.com! Sign up for the Erie GLBT News and Events email list at our web site, and you will get first notice on new contests PLUS news and upcoming events! Over 1,000 people have won a prize!

Calendar

Russian Festival (Old Orthodox Church of the Nativity, 251 E. Front St., Erie, PA) Meet Kim and Andrea at the food tent at noon.. Free admission, authentic Russian food and crafts to purchase and live music to enjoy. Contact: Kim. Phone: (814) 314-9512. Email: ErieBeans@aol.com. Browse www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE.

May 24 (Sat) - Imperial Court of Buffalo Coronation 2014 www.imperialcourtofbuffalo.com

May 24 (Sat) - TransFamily of Erie Support Group meets (Mental Health Association of NW Pennsylvania, 1101 Peach St, Erie, PA) 2-5 PM. Refreshments, free parking is available in a lot to the south of MHA. Please bring a snack to share. Caitlyn (814) 823-1969.

May 25 (Sun) - Big Gay Picnic Noon-6PM North Park Lodge Wexford PA www.pittsburghpride.org/

May 27 (Tue) - Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E. Jefferson Street, Butler, PA) 1 PM. (412) 518-1515.

May 28 (Wed) - RU12 - LGBT Social Group meets (Mental Health Assoc. in Chautauqua Co., 31 Water St.

Ste 7, Jamestown, NY) 6 PM. Contact: Steven Michael Cobb. (716) 661-9044. chautauquamha@gmail.com.

May 29 - Jun 1 (Thu - Sun) - Friends & Family - Extra Long Weekend (Jones Pond 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) (585) 567-8100. info@jonespond.com. www.jonespond.com.

May 30 (Fri) - LBT Women of Erie go to Rib Fest (Perry Square, Erie, PA1) 6 PM, meet at the gazebo. Free admission, charge for the rib tasting and other food and beverages. Contact: Kim. Phone: (814) 314-9512. Email: ErieBeans@aol.com. Browse to <https://www.facebook.com/LBTWOMENOFERIE>.

May 31 (Sat) - PFLAG Butler Rummage Sale (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) 9 AM - 4 PM. Support group for parents, friends and families of lesbians, gays and transgendered people. (724) 602-8447. president@pflagbutler.com. www.pflagbutler.com.

May 31 (Sat) - Hag Drag Night (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. campd@aol.com. www.campdavicampground.com.

May 31 (Sat) - Dance Escape Reunion (Erie Clown Hall, 512 Kelso Drv, Erie, PA) 7 - 11 PM. LGBT 80's and 90's dance music, \$5, Partial proceeds to benefit Because You Care Animal Rescue. BYO - beverages, snacks, mixers, cups, plates and ice (814) 392-4757.

Jun 1 (Sun) - Buffalo Pride Parade & Festival www.buffalopridefestival.com/

Jun 7 (Sat) - Youngstown Pride Festival 2014 www.prideyoungstown.org/

Jun 14 (Sat) - 22nd Annual Erie Pride Picnic (Rotary Pavilion, Presque Isle State Park, Erie, PA) 1 - 6 PM. (814) 456-9833. president@nwpapride.org. www.nwpapride.org.



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Candidates for US Congress PA-3 and PA-5, PA State Senate and PA State House were asked about their positions on GLBT issues. Their responses appear on the next few pages.

These were the questions for US Congress:

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

Last year, the United States Senate passed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), providing federal protection for LGBT individuals from job discrimination. The bill has gone to the House. Do you support this bill? Please explain.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

In the 2013 Windsor decision, the United States Supreme Court declined to decide if the LGBT community has a constitutional right to marriage equality. Conflicting state rulings have occurred since this time, causing the issue to soon be back before the Court. Do you support a constitutional right to marriage equality for the LGBT community? Please explain.

OTHER

What would you like to let the Erie area LGBT community to know?

US CONGRESS PA-5

Not Responding: Kerith Strano-Taylor (D), Glenn Thompson (R-Incumbent)

Anti-Discrimination

Thomas Tarantella (D)

Yes I would support the house bill.

Discrimination is discrimination no matter what color you paint it, no matter what name you give it, it is still discrimination. I believe any discrimination against any individual or group of people, regardless of color, race, religion, and sexual orientation has no place in America. I have spent 22 years of my youth defending our way of life and our values and will not stand by and watch them go quietly in to the night.

Marriage Equality

Thomas Tarantella (D)

I do support marriage equality for all Americans.

I believe in the U.S. Constitution, I believe in the America way of life, I believe that all Americans should be happy. I believe the Constitution is to provide justice, civil peace, and common defense. I believe in my heart that every American has the right to be happy regardless of the economic status, race, color, religious beliefs, or their sexual orientation.

Other

Thomas Tarantella (D)

Now more than ever it's time to take back our country, I would ask every Pennsylvanian to stand with the people and do their duty, VOTE. Vote for what you believe to be right and true for themselves, their community, their state and above all their country. I would ask the Erie area LGBT community to **don't think about it, but to be about it.** Together we can make a better place for all Americans.

As a young man I raised my hand and recited these words " I will support and defend the Constitution of United States of America against all enemies foreign and domestic so help me God". Today I will

US CONGRESS PA-3

Not Responding: Dan LaVallee (D), Mike Kelly (R-Incumbent)

Mike Kelly (R-Incumbent)

Editors' Note: Mike Kelly did not respond to the questionnaire, but did respond to a question about ENDA at a townball meeting in Vernon Township in July 2011. A constituent asked Rep. Kelly if he supported ENDA and Kelly responded by talking about his support for DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act) which bans same-sex marriage. He then quickly changing the subject. You can view his entire response on our website, link to it from this article on our website.

answer my country's call once again if the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's 5th Congressional District deem it so, then I will once again defend our people and our way life, not in the jungles, not in the deserts, but from the floor of the U.S. House



These were the questions for PA State Offices:

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

Do you support the passage of SB/HB 300, which would amend the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to include protecting LGBT individuals from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation? Please explain.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

The Pennsylvania Defense of Marriage Act (PA DOMA) does not recognize same-sex marriage taking place in Pennsylvania, and prohibits the state from recognizing same-sex marriages that have taken place in other states. Do you support a repeal of PA DOMA? Please explain.

ANTI-BULLYING

Do you support the PASS Act, which would amend the Public School Code of 1949 to include protecting LGBT individuals from bullying in public schools? Please explain.

OTHER

What would you like to let the Erie area LGBT community to know?

PA Governor

Not Responding: Allyson Schwartz (D), Tom Corbett (R-Incumbent), Bob Guzzardi (R)

Anti-Discrimination

Tom Corbett (R-Incumbent)

[Editors' note]: In December, Corbett stated "If that bill comes to my desk, I'll sign it," Source: The Morning Call on 2014 Pennsylvania Governor race, Dec 18, 2013

Rob McCord (D)

Yes. Once elected governor, I will be an ardent and enthusiastic advocate for HB 300, just as I have in my current role as state treasurer. While I do not have a vote in the legislature as treasurer, I do have a voice, and I have used that voice to speak out frequently in favor of this bill.

Beyond this being a matter of fairness, this issue also shapes our economy. Praising House Bill 300 in a May 2013 op-ed, I wrote about how expanding the rights of the LGBT community is not only the right thing to do morally, it also provides a positive impact on Pennsylvania's economy. Diversity and non-discrimination in the workplace improves performance – and helps attract the best and the brightest to our state. That's good for our business climate, for our state's tax base, and for job creation.

Kathleen McGinty (D)

I am a strong supporter of HB 300 and have state so publicly numerous times in press releases, public statements and social media. As Governor, I will make passage of this legislation a priority and will use the bully pulpit of the Governor's office pressure the legislature to pass it so that we, as a state, can end discrimination once and for all.

Tom Wolf (D)

All people – regardless of sexual orientation – should be treated equally under the law. At my company, I treat all of my workers fairly and with good benefits. This includes extending benefits to same-sex partners. I do this not just because it is morally important but also because I understand the practical economic importance of extending rights regardless of sexual

orientation.

As governor, I will promote legislation, like House Bill 300, that makes sexual orientation and gender identity and expression a protected class. I will also support changes to Pennsylvania's tax code so that domestic partners can be recognized as dependents for tax purposes. This would eliminate the need for employees to pay taxes on health benefits covering their same-sex partner.

Marriage Equality

Tom Corbett (R-Incumbent)

[Editors 'note]: Last October, Corbett compared same-sex marriage to incest in a television appearance, stating, "I think a much better analogy would have been brother and sister, don't you?" Also Corbett administration lawyers support upholding PA DOMA (state marriage ban).

Rob McCord (D)

Yes. Personally and morally, I think it is wrong to discriminate against anyone. That's why I unequivocally stand in support of marriage equality.

This is an issue that is very personal for me. When I was born, there were many states where the kind of interracial marriage I'm in today would have been illegal. We should not deny the rights of people to marry whomever they love, but Pennsylvania remains the only northeast state (from Maine to Maryland) that discriminates against same-sex couples.

Kathleen McGinty (D)

I support marriage equality and have been vocal about it. The first thing I would do is drop Pennsylvania's defense of the unconstitutional law that prohibits same sex couples from marrying. A McGinty Administration will not sit back and wait for the legislature to pass legislation legalizing marriage equality. We will lead and pressure the legislature to act affirmatively to pass legislation in this regard.

Tom Wolf (D)

I support full marriage equality. I strongly believe that government should not be in the businesses of denying two people who love each other the right to enter into a marriage and enjoy the love and benefits that come with it. As governor, I will repeal the state's unconstitutional gay marriage ban and support efforts to create marriage equality in the Commonwealth.

Anti-Bullying

Kathleen McGinty (D)

Bullying is a major problem in our schools and this issue must be addressed immediately to prevent tragedies. As with HB 300, I will make passage of this legislation a priority and will use the bully pulpit of the Governor's office pressure the legislature to pass it. Every child deserves a school where they can be safe and, as Governor, I will fight for that.

Rob McCord (D)

Yes! As governor, I will be an aggressive and vocal advocate for safe schools. Students cannot learn effectively in an environment where they feel threatened. Unfortunately – and tragically – Pennsylvania has among the weakest protections for students against bullying and harassment. That must end.

We must give teachers and school administrators the tools and training they need to identify bullying and students who suffer from this and other forms of abuse, and we must equip education professionals with the knowledge to be able to counsel affected children.

Tom Wolf (D)

I believe safety is a fundamental civil right, and nowhere is that more evident than in our schools. Students go there to learn and should be safe and protected. In order to create an environment where students feel comfortable testing new ideas and asking questions, there Tom Wolf for Governor www.wolf-forpa.com needs to be a positive school climate where students feel safe. Not only does the Commonwealth need to ensure that public school teachers have the knowledge and tools to prevent bullying but we also need to strengthen our anti-bullying laws so that there are real consequences.

In addition to addressing issues of in-school bullying, we also need to tackle the problem of cyber-bullying, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have referred to as a public health emergency. As governor, I will support legislation that strengthens our current laws to create serious consequences for bullies and provide school districts with the tools needed to properly address the problem.

Other

Rob McCord (D)

I have long had a strong relationship with the LGBT community, and I firmly believe all Pennsylvanians deserve equality and equal treatment -- and equal protection -- under the law.

Personally and morally, I think it is wrong to discriminate against anyone. That's why I unequivocally stand in support of marriage equality, employment non-discrimination, and protection of the civil rights of those in the LGBT community. Also, as treasurer, I know that equality and equal treatment under the law is good for the economy.

I have been enormously proud of my many endorsements from LGBT organizations during three prior statewide races (one contested primary and two general elections) from organizations such as the Steel City Stonewall Democrats, Equality PA, the Gertrude Stein Political Club of Greater Pittsburgh, the Liberty City LGBT Democratic Club, and the Philadelphia Gay News. Similarly, I was proud last year to keynote the annual Equality Forum dinner in Philadelphia at the invitation of my good friend Malcolm Lazin, the director of that organization.

It has been a privilege for me to lend my voice as a statewide elected official to a number of fights in the name of ending discrimination. And I was surprised and delighted when I was told that I was the first statewide elected official to speak in favor of marriage equality at the Democratic state committee. (That helped to cement my support from the openly gay chair of the South-central Democratic Caucus, Roger Lund.)

I sincerely believe achieving equality for all gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning people is the civil rights fight of our time. I'm proud to be engaged in this fight in the name of fairness, justice, and equality.

Kathleen McGinty (D)

I have seen the issues that face the LGBT community firsthand with my brother who is gay. These issues -- whether it is marriage equality, discrimination in the workplace, bullying, etc. -- are not theoretical. They are personal. The LGBT community and the issues that affect this community matter to me. With a McGinty Administration, you will have a friend, ear and strong

supporter in Harrisburg. I will fight for you and fight for the equality of all Pennsylvanian's.

Tom Wolf (D)

William Penn founded Pennsylvania on a basis of fairness and tolerance. Our Commonwealth must continue to be a place that pays faithful tribute to those good values.

I am running for governor because I want to give Pennsylvania a fresh start -- to make the Commonwealth the nation's "Keystone" for economic growth with its abundant natural resources, vibrant agricultural sector, world class universities and colleges, and its ideal location as the transportation and telecommunications hub between the East Coast, Midwest, and world markets.

Pennsylvania is not going to get this fresh start unless we level the playing field and start treating all residents with the respect they deserve. As governor, I will work tirelessly to advance the rights of all residents, end discrimination against the LGBT community, and ensure that two people who love each other have the right to marry. Additionally, I will work recruit and actively encourage more LGBT residents to enter politics at the local, state, and national level.

PA Senate District 50

Not Responding: Michele Brooks (R), Greg Lucas (R)

Anti-Discrimination

Michael T Muha (D)

If elected to the Pennsylvania Senate, I will not only support, but co-sponsor any legislation that bans LGBT discrimination from employment, housing, and public accommodation. Pennsylvania should be a state where we welcome people to live, work, and play.

Jane L MacPherson (R)

I support these changes Oct 27, 1955 (P.L. 744, No 222)

Marriage Equality

Michael T Muha (D)

I would also support and co-sponsor any legislation that would repeal the Pennsylvania Defense of Marriage Act.

Jane L MacPherson (R)

I support same sex civil unions - I oppose calling it "marriage."

Anti-Bullying

Michael T Muha (D)

As an anti-bullying advocate for public school children, I am a strong supporter of any legislation that protects students. Certainly sexual orientation and gender identity are two categories that should be protected.

Jane L MacPherson (R)

All students should be protected from bullying for any reason.

Other

Michael T Muha (D)

That you will not have a greater ally and friend to support you and your cause. I strongly believe that all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, should be treated with respect and compassion. As your next State Senator, I will fight for you and your right to be equal under the law.

Jane L MacPherson (R)

It concerns me when too many laws are written. When we as a state, try to legislate everything then the government is the deciders of winners & losers amount of effort the individual puts into the task should be the decider of the outcome. Equal work, equal pay. No matter what!

PA State House District 1

Not responding: Patrick Harkins (D-Incumbent)

[Editors' note]: Patrick Harkins is a co-sponsor of HB 300 (anti-discrimination) and the PASS Act (against bullying)



PA State House District 2

Not responding: Flo Fabrizio (D-Incumbent)

[Editors' note]: At the NW PA Pride Alliance candidates forum April 16, Rep. Fabrizio stated that he "Absolutely" supports repeal of the PA DOMA law. In response to a question about HB 300, he said, "I've co-sponsored that from Day 1."

PA State House District 3

Not Responding: Luke E Lofgren (R)

Anti-Discrimination

Ryan Bizzarro (D-Incumbent)

I absolutely support the passage of HB300, which is why I am a co-sponsor of this legislation. No employer, landlord, or business should have the right to deny another person their rights due to sex, religion, race, or sexual orientation. No one should fear loss of their job because they have a picture of their partner or family on their desk.

Marriage Equality

Ryan Bizzarro (D-Incumbent)

I believe that the HB 300 must become law in PA before the argument can be made for the passage of the PA DOMA. YOU have to have a law in place that clearly states that we are all equal under the law and we are subject to the same rights.

Anti-Bullying

Ryan Bizzarro (D-Incumbent)

I do support the passage of the PASS Act (HB 156) and have shown my support by becoming a co-sponsor of the Act.

Other

Ryan Bizzarro (D-Incumbent)

I meet on a regular bases with Rep. Brian Sims and Rep. Fleck who keep me updated on the issues dealing with the LGBT community. I would also like everyone to know that my door is always open to all. If you have any questions or concerns, please call

my office to speak to me or to my staff. We can be reached at 814-835-2880 or email me at RepBizzarro@pahouse.net.

PA State House District 4

Not Responding: Curt Sonney (R-Incumbent)

Anti-Discrimination

Curt Smith (D)

YES, This Community is worthy of equal treatment as are all Pennsylvanians.

Marriage Equality

Curt Smith (D)

YES, I also support marriage equality and I think the state of Pennsylvania should recognize gay marriage as being legal to marry and be recognized as a gay couple.

Anti-Bullying

Curt Smith (D)

YES, As a School Director, and the Chairman of the Policy committee we look hard at our policies to prevent issues that could arise in our school system. I support to prevent bullying and defend equal rights.

Other

Curt Smith (D)

It is not a representative's responsibility to decide whether LGBT individuals are right or wrong, but to defend the rights as an individual and protect there rights that all Men & Women should be treated equally

This Voters Guide is compiled by NW PA Pride Alliance.

The Voters Guide does not endorse or rate candidates, but offers each candidate the opportunity to present their positions, efforts, and experiences in their own words.

Candidates are listed in alphabetical order.

PA State House District 6

Not Responding: Brad Roae (R-Incumbent)

Anti-Discrimination

Juanita Shutsa (D)

Yes. I believe discrimination of any group in the area of employment, housing, and public accommodation to be reprehensible and unacceptable.

Marriage Equality

Juanita Shutsa (D)

Yes. I believe that those opposed to same-sex marriage are confusing religious views and the laws of the state. I believe in the separation of church and state. Therefore I would vote to repeal PA DOMA.

Anti-Bullying

Juanita Shutsa (D)

Yes. Bullying is unacceptable in any shape or form toward any individual or group of individuals, period.

Other

Juanita Shutsa (D)

I would like to let the Erie area LGBT community know that I am a person who recognizes and will support the full equality of all persons of our district and our state. Legislation which would promote bigotry and prejudice have no place in the law books of our commonwealth. I believe in every individual's freedom of choice regardless of that choice's agreement with my or another's personal beliefs.

PA State House District 17

Not Responding: Dennis P Webber (D), Ed Franz (R), Patrick J Gehrlein (R), Parke Wentling (R)

Anti-Discrimination

Wayne E Hanson (D)

I support the passage of SB/HB 300. All citizens are entitled to equal opportunity and protection from discrimination. This includes discrimination based upon sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

☆☆☆ VOTERS GUIDE ☆☆☆

Gary J Temple (R)

I do not believe this bill will be brought up for a vote at this time.

Marriage Equality

Wayne E Hanson (D)

I absolutely support the repeal of the so called "Defense of Marriage Act".

This act has no relevance to a modern/loving world. If we really want to defend marriage, we should be looking at policies that support marriage and encourage family life. We need to ask ourselves what truly causes marriage failure and family dysfunction and try to correct that. Poverty is a good start.

Gary J Temple (R)

No. I believe marriage is between a man and a woman.

Anti-Bullying

Wayne E Hanson (D)

I support the PASS Act. There are already many avenues for protecting students from bullying. Unfortunately we need special legislation to "remind" and "require" the powers to be, and all others, that "all" students deserve this protection, and this protection "must be provided".

Gary J Temple (R)

I believe that any type of bullying is not permissible to anyone.

Other

Wayne E Hanson (D)

Citizens in the LGBT community are part of the long list of groups that have been subject to bias and discrimination. I have been an advocate against unjust treatment most of my life. One example, I was an advocate for the mentally retarded helping them obtain their right to denied education and MH/MR. Services. This was greatly needed until the 70s and is now much improved. I am now retired. Previously I was a District Justice for 18 years. Every day my goal was to insure all citizens were treated fairly. I have always encouraged others that it is important to stand up for their rights and what is right. I have volunteered my time to help others overcome unjust practices and unsympathetic

organizations. For example several years ago a college student being harassed at school because of his sexual orientation. It is important that organizations such as the Pride Alliance exist. Mutual support is the key to bring about needed change.

I viewed this questionnaire as the best I received. The NW PA Pride Alliance is providing a valuable service by reasonable questions and not editing the answers.

I will be honored if any person with the Pride Alliance would be willing to volunteer with my campaign. Home Phone 814-587-3418

Gary J Temple (R)

Due to Lenten services at my church, I will not be able to attend your candidate forum on the 16th, but thank you for the invite.

David Biros (R)

My position on issues that affect the gay community is that I think that dialogue is the only way that we can change the hearts and minds of people. You have come a long way but still have a long way to go on many issues and maybe I have a way to go but I am willing to listen. Let your readers know I am willing to keep my ears open on anything you have to say.

In my life I have had the pleasure of working with many gay people who have treated me with respect and dignity and honestly when I have been treated badly it has been with straight people. If it is God's will, I will win this primary and I hope you will invite me back to talk about the issues. God Bless.

Many ways you can support a candidate!

Voting is important! But there are other ways to support a candidate. You can

- Put a sign in your window or yard
- Volunteer for the campaign
- Make a donation in any amount.

Contact information for candidates is on our website, and most of them are on Facebook and/or have websites.

April
24th-26th



Thomas Dale

Thomas Dale is a rising star in the comedy world. He recently landed a coveted spot on the New Faces showcase at Montreal's Just For Laughs Festival. Content Rated: R. www.thomasdalecomedy.com

\$12⁵⁰
per
ticket

June
26th-28th



Gilbert Gottfried

Aside from his glowing reputation in comedy clubs, Gottfried began to gain a reputation as the king of quirky roles in both movies and television. He appeared in such movies as "Problem Child," "Problem Child II," "Look Who's Talking II" & "The Adventures of Ford Fairlane." He was also the host of the very popular late night movie series "USA Up All Night." After his stellar performance as the wise cracking parrot, IAGO, in the Disney classic "Aladdin".

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per
ticket

Friday &
Saturday:

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ticket



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