



# Vets Do Ask Do Tell, LLC

<http://www.vetsdoaskdotell.org>

Newsletter Vol. 1 Issue 3

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## **New Board Members:**

Well elections were held and we have several new board members. I want to welcome them all to the board and thank them for being part of this organization. We still have one opening on the board for a treasurer. If anyone knows a person with good number sense please talk to them and see if they would be interested in filling that position.

## **New Case Study Underway:**

Do you know of someone who is an LGBT vet but is afraid to use the VA, or hides their lifestyle while at the VA? Any person who is reluctant when it comes to VA benefits because of lifestyle would be a perfect candidate. We are doing a case study to find out why LGBT vets are not out at the VA. The program is totally anonymous. We ask for no names, just concerns of our veterans when dealing with the VA. They can take the quick survey on line by clicking on Case Study off of our main menu. This information will be used in helping us with the VA and also we have a national reporter interested in the results to do a follow up article showing our side of Don't Ask Don't Tell and how it impacts our LGBT vets after service. Let's try to invite as many as possible to the plate so we can better serve our community.

## **Gay World Series:**

The Gay World Series is coming to Milwaukee this year in August. We are investigating table space at the Summerfest grounds where the opening ceremonies will be held. There will be teams from all over the country and Canada participating. Come and join the fun.

## **Sponsorship Fund:**

We will be placing a donation link on our site within the next few days called sponsor a vet. Donations to this fund will be posted on our site. These donations will help our veterans on limited income become a part of our organization. This will move us forward in that no vet will be turned away.

## **National meetings of Vets Do Ask Do Tell:**

For those in the Milwaukee area interested in attending a meeting, the National Board meets every second Sunday of the month at their headquarters located at the LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St, Milwaukee, WI. Meetings are held in the Board Room and depending on number of attendees can be moved to the community room inside the center. All vets and friends are welcome to attend. Meetings start promptly at 1 P.M. **Quick note: Our April meeting will be held on April 5<sup>th</sup> instead of our regular day. We are doing this in honor of Easter Sunday which falls on our regular meeting day.**

## **Up and Coming Events:**

**Remembering Our Homeless Vets Day** – With the success of our holiday party at the dormitory 123, VA Milwaukee, we are planning to have a similar event come Easter time. We were asked to collaborate once again with the Countryside Christian Church to present an Easter party for our homeless vets.

**Heritage Weekend** - Reclaiming Our Heritage is the largest Memorial Day event in Milwaukee — even though it takes place the weekend *after* Memorial Day, on Saturday May 30 and Sunday, May 31. This free-admission, family-friendly event honors veterans and educates the public about veterans' countless contributions to American society.

Reclaiming our Heritage takes place at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center, the site of one of the original three National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers authorized by legislation and signed by President Abraham Lincoln.

A living history event, Reclaiming Our Heritage features reenactments from all the major military eras in U. S. history, starting with the pre-Revolutionary War to the present era. The event also is a resource for veterans interested in up-to-date information on VA benefits and services. Come and visit us at our table.

**Pridefest Milwaukee** – This year we will have a table located in the wellness area at Pridefest. Also, we have been asked to present an honor guard for the opening ceremonies. Pridefest this year will be held from June 12<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> at the Summerfest grounds located on Lake Michigan.

**Vets Journey Home** – this is a 3 day retreat that will tentatively be held July 31<sup>st</sup> through August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The program is being conducted in collaboration with the LGBT Community Center in Milwaukee and the Center for Creative Learning.

Finding closure through telling one's story is difficult to achieve and the deeper truths remain untold; the deeper pain remain unprocessed.

The Vet's Journey Home invites veterans to come all the way home and find out that they are not alone. There are many who care about you--who are willing to walk point, be at your side, and cover your back. This time, you'll be coming home together with other veterans, and welcomed with respect and honor.

All combat veterans are urged to attend. The Vet's Journey Home is also recommended for in-country and offshore non combatant Vietnam veterans.

Additionally, all combat zone veterans from any era are urged to consider attending. Both men and women vets may attend the Vet's Journey Home.

We need your support to make this happen. You can get more information by going to our website at [http://www.vetsdoaskdotell.org/vets\\_journey.asp](http://www.vetsdoaskdotell.org/vets_journey.asp) .

### **Promotional Material:**

Chapters requiring promotional material can email requests to the organization and we will be happy to supply them with a small supply of preprinted flyers. If the chapter is having an event we can also print flyers for the event. Contact us for more information.

### **Taking Pride in What We Do:**

We, the members of Vets Do Ask Do Tell, LLC, pledge our allegiance to the United States of America and to our members in whose name we serve. We are resolved to promote justice, tolerance, peace, and good will among all men and women toward the end that all wars may cease, and to educate veterans in the services available to assist them with growth in a peacetime environment.

As you can see, we have a very busy schedule, donations, membership and support by other organizations help make these events a reality. Your continued support is required to keep these programs alive. We are making a difference.

**~ Country, Honor, Duty ~**

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