



Vets Do Ask Do Tell, LLC

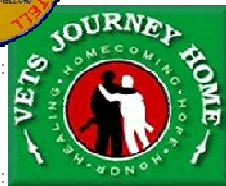
<http://www.vetsdoaskdotell.org>

Newsletter Vol. 1 Issue 4

April 6, 2009

Women Vet Wellness Fair at Zablocki VA Medical Center:

There will be a wellness fair held at the Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee, WI on April 29 from 11:30 – 6. This will be a good chance to meet folks from the Vets Journey Home Program and Vets Do Ask Do Tell. We encourage all women veterans to attend and take part in the fair and meet members of both organizations.



Vets Journey Home

Northern Wisconsin - May 22-24, 2009

Milwaukee, Wisconsin - July 31- Aug 2, 2009

Mt. Airy, Maryland - May 1-3, 2009

Milwaukee Collaboration:
Center for Creative Learning, LLC
LGBT Center - Milwaukee, WI
Vets Do Ask Do Tell, LLC

You can read more about this program and register for one of these retreats by going to our website at http://www.vetsdoaskdotell.org/vets_journey.asp. Visit us at the Women Vet Wellness Fair on April 29th. This is a free program for both combatant and non-combatant veterans.

Bumper Stickers:



On Sale Now! We are asking for a minimum donation of \$5.00 each in support of our programs. We will mail them to you. Send your donation along with mailing address to:

Vets Do Ask Do Tell, LLC
315 W. Court St. Rm 114
Milwaukee, WI. 53212

New Supplement:

As an additional feature to our newsletter we are adding a place in our newsletter where organizations can advertise their events for free. If your organization is having an event you may send it to my address at the bottom of the newsletter. Deadline for entries is the first day of each month. Events should be kept to one or two paragraphs to be sure to allow room for others. ~ Ellen Kozel, President

Parade Flags:

We've been asked to present a color guard for Pridefest 2009. Unfortunately, we are too young and have limited resources to purchase two parade flags this year. If any of our readers belong to an organization that will lend us their parade flags for this event they can contact me a 414-213-4952 or email me at ellen.kozel@vetsdoaskdotell.org. We feel this is a great honor and would like very much to be able to perform this task.

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.

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 has been moved to April 19th instead of our regular day. It is important that all members local to Milwaukee attend.**

Up and Coming Events:

Remembering Our Homeless Vets Day – Due to building 123 being closed down for renovations and the homeless vets being moved to other quarters this event is temporarily on hold. We will update members as soon as we have a definite location.

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 12th through the 14th at the Summerfest grounds located on Lake Michigan.

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 ~

To subscribe to this newsletter write to president@vetsdoaskdotell.org .

Editor – Ellen Kozel

Other Events:



Wisconsin Cream City Chorus
Presents
Whirled Music
Saturday, April 18, 2009 at 7:30 pm
Unitarian Universalist Church West
13001 W. North Avenue, Brookfield 53005

**Starring Joel Kopischke, J. Ruben Pirrainen
& Timothy Ruf**



Celebrate around the Maypole!

From May 3 to 17, the Milwaukee LGBT Consortium (composed of FORGE, Lesbian Alliance, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, SAGE/Milwaukee and Vets Do Ask Do Tell, LLC) is conducting its inaugural *Queen of the May* [online auction](#). The focus of the auction is to celebrate the season of new growth and possibility, the love and devotion of motherhood, and the achievements and dreams of our graduates. In addition, this event will help our respective organizations to raise the much needed funds for our programs and services.

