
LGBT News

The LGBT Resource Center for
the 7 Rivers Region, Inc.

July 2007!

From the President of the Board

Greetings ! Hope this finds you healthy and happy.

I have some great news to share with you about the LGBT Resource Center for the 7 Rivers Region, to which you've generously contributed in the past. I also have a challenge for everybody.

First, the challenge. The center has received a matching grant challenge totaling \$2,500. In order to receive this money we must raise another \$2,500 by September 1, 2007. The donors of this challenge are Dick Record, \$1,000, and John Magerus and Everett McKinney, \$1,000. As the board president, I have contributed \$500 to bring the total to \$2,500. Please consider helping the center meet the challenge by contributing again so we can match or exceed the \$2,500 that Dick, John, Everett and I have promised.

Your generous contribution will help the center remain open, so we can continue to provide services to the LGBT community.

Now, the great news! The 7 Rivers LGBT Center continues to grow and expand. Since its inception four years ago, the center's budget has more than doubled, and the people served in a variety of ways has more than tripled (<http://www.7riverslgbt.org/accomplishments.htm>). We're at a point where we need to begin another thorough examination of the center's goals, so we can better align our vision and mission to meeting the needs of our Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender-Ally community.

You can help in this process by contacting the center and providing us with information about your needs or needs you see in the community that the center can consider as it continues expanding. We'd also like to hear from you if the activities in which the center has engaged have made a difference in your life. So please think about giving us a call at 1-608-784-0452 or dropping us a note at P.O. Box 3313, 303 Pearl Street, La Crosse, WI 54602-3313, or emailing us at info@7riverslgbt.org.

We hope to hear from you soon. Please consider responding to my requests by contributing to the matching grant challenge and by providing us feedback that we can use as we move forward. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cindy Killion, President
LGBT Resource Center for the 7 Rivers Region, Inc.

Report from our Center Coordinator

Glimpses from the Center. What's happening in the Center?

The temperature was a humid 95 as persons escaped into the Center. Lounging around a table, the group of four shared funny anecdotes, intermittently getting up to peruse the library.

Two women walk into the Center. As they independently wander from one side of the Center to the other, scoping out materials, I hop down the steps and let them know I'm around if they want anything. One says, "We're so happy we saw the flag! We're visiting from out-of-town, and wonder if there are any gay bars or clubs?" I talked of the local LGBT bars, and she wrapped her arms around her partner as they continued to listen.

Directory Progress

The Center wants a comprehensive list of what professionals, agencies, and businesses are LGBT-supportive. We are contacting the community to introduce the Center and to ask that we may learn more about them via a survey specific to their area of practice. So far, we have spoken with half of La Crosse County's counseling agencies, and everyone has been friendly and willing to participate in the survey!

Seeking Volunteers

The Center is determined to accomplish several projects, and having more hands to help makes the world of difference.

- Soon, the Center will want to contact all of the attorneys in La Crosse County.
- There is much to prepare for Pride Fest.
- We'd like make a comprehensive kit of educational resources, as many professionals have expressed interest in learning more about LGBT issues!

There are many other projects as well! If you're interested in volunteering, there will be a volunteer orientation Thursday, July 5th at 6:00 pm, and at an alternative time on Saturday, July

7th, at 10:00 am. They will both be held at the Center. If you have any questions or if you're interested in volunteering, please call the Center at 784-0452.

Thanks!

Connie Sutter
Center Coordinator

Annual Rummage Sale!

Time to clean out those closets and put aside items you don't need for the 3rd Annual 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center Rummage Sale. This has always been a successful fundraiser for our Center, thanks to all of your donations. We have set the dates for August 3rd and 4th, 2007. When you're ready to turn over your items call our Resource Center at (608) 784-0452 and leave your name and phone number. We will get back to you to make arrangements for pick up or drop off of the items.

Pride Update

Pride Ride, July 21, 2007:

Ride to Bridge Diversity at the 1st Annual La Crosse Pride Ride July 21, 2007. Motorcycles and cars enjoy the scenic roads of the Coulee Region while bicyclists enjoy the trails around Holmen. Pre-register by July 16 for only \$15 per person, registration is \$20 the day of the ride. Win \$50 and have your registration fee waived if you bring in the highest number of pledges.

After the ride, enjoy the complimentary lunch at Shelter B, behind the American Legion, in Holmen. Join us at the picnic if you don't want to ride, cost is only \$3 per person. Purchase additional raffle tickets to win any of our many prizes.

Pledge sheets can be picked up at any of our major sponsors, Fed Ex Kinkos, 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center and River Trail Cycles in Holmen. Or print a copy from the Pride website at: <http://lacrossepride.7riverslgbt.org/> If you have any questions, please contact Daina at dainamae@yahoo.com.

Pride Day, August 18, 2007:

Events and entertainment for La Crosse Pride have been scheduled. Check the Pride website (<http://lacrossepride.7riverslgbt.org/>) and the Events page (<http://lacrossepride.7riverslgbt.org/pridecalendar.html>) for more information. All events and entertainment will take place at the South Side Oktoberfest Grounds on August 18th from 11:00 am to Midnight.

Adult admission will be \$5. Kids under 12 can experience La Crosse Pride and activities for free!

This year we will be donating a portion of our profits to a non-profit organization that is voted on by the Pride goers, so make sure you vote for your favorite organization.

Help create La Crosse Pride 2007. Volunteers are wanted for the fun and important job of organizing Pride 2007. Call the 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center to volunteer! Check the [calendar](#) for meeting dates and times.

Cultural Advocacy Committee

The LGBT Resource Center for the 7 Rivers Region welcomes all LGBT members and allies in our community. We know there are many of us of various genders, ages, and races. We want to make sure that the Center is a welcoming and safe place for each of us. To help further this effort the Center Board of Directors has established a Cultural Advocacy Committee. If you are African American, Mexican American, Hmong, Native American, European American or any other nationality/race and interested in cultural advocacy please contact the Center. Our next meeting will be on July 9, 2007 at the La Crosse Public Library, 800 Main Street, La Crosse, at 6 p.m. We will be meeting in the Trustees Room in the basement. Call the Center for more information, 608.784.0452.

Ongoing Center Activities

[Weekly Activities](#)

Coulee Region LGBT Group for Adults

We have recently formed a group for persons over age 20 to connect with others in the LGBT community. We look forward to engaging in a variety of activities, from potlucks to topical discussions, to camping. Our primary purpose is to provide a safe space where people can meet and pursue activities that they find meaningful. The group meets every week, and welcomes anyone that is LGBT, questioning their identity, or is an ally. We currently meet on Tuesday's at 6:00 pm, at the Center on 303 Pearl St. If you have any questions or would like to be added to the group's listserv, please call Connie at (608) 784-0452.

[Monthly Activities](#)

Gender Queer/Transgender Gathering at the Center:

Do you identify as gender queer? How about Transgender? Do you ever feel like you don't fit in because of your gender identity or expression? Then come to a monthly discussion group at the 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center. The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00. For

more information contact: vanroose.kath@uwlax.edu. For upcoming meeting dates, check the Center [website calendar](#)

Genderqueer - A gender variant person whose gender identity is neither male nor female, is between or beyond genders, or is some combination of genders. This person may want to challenge gender stereotypes and the gender binary system.
Transgender - A person who lives as a member of a gender other than that expected based on anatomical sex.

Women's Book Group:

The women's books group will **not** meet during the summer, but watch your newsletter for the new reading schedule which will begin in the fall. Group meeting dates will also be on the 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center website calendar for more details: [website calendar](#)

Social Security Part Two - The Birth of Social Security

By Christina Mae Olson, CFP®

By the early 1930's there were more than 30 countries which had adopted some sort of social insurance program. Among them were Canada, Spain, Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, Estonia, Latvia, Japan, Brazil and Australia. Some of these programs were voluntary while others were mandatory. Some were contributory (like our Social Security Insurance). Some required an income means test for recipients to qualify. Some countries extended their social insurance program to people with disabilities but many did not. The Social Security website has a great link that describes the various provisions in all of these foreign plans. Go to: <http://www.ssa.gov/history/pre1935table2.html> if you are interested in learning more.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Committee on Economic Security (CES). This committee was charged with evaluating the various foreign social security programs and making proposals for America's plan. Barbara Nachtrieb Armstrong, a law professor and economist UC Berkeley, became the CES director. She had been the Executive Secretary of the Social Insurance Commission of California. Ms. Armstrong was one of only two women in her first year of law school at UC Berkeley in 1913 and was the first female professor at an accredited law school. She was married but widely rumored to be a lesbian. Her "best friend" was journalist Ernestine Black. Barbara and Ernestine were vacationing in Lake Tahoe (with Barbara's husband) when Barbara received a telegram from President Roosevelt imploring her to join the CES. It was Ernestine that talked her into taking the job.

The CES divided into two factions - and one group favored what was called The Wisconsin Idea (I am not making this up). The group advocating The Wisconsin Idea wanted individual states to administer the new social insurance program. The other group wanted a national plan. At the time, Wisconsin was the most progressive state in terms of its social programs (remember our motto: FORWARD). UW Madison professor John Commons had advocated for the early Workers Compensation provisions and state funded old age pensions. He actually advocated the prevention of illness and accident to help bring down the cost of these so-called social insurance plans. Loss prevention and risk management grew to be major factors in the profitability of

insurance companies thanks to John Commons. Secretary of Labor, Frances Perkins, the first woman in our country to serve on a President's cabinet, was also on the CES. Ms. Perkins supported The Wisconsin Idea. I'm sure you all know by now that the national plan ultimately won the most support.

In January, 1935, the CES presented their proposal to President Roosevelt. The Social Security Act was signed into law on August 14, 1935. The Act created a plan to provide ongoing income to retired workers. This is what President Roosevelt said while signing the Act into law: "We can never insure one hundred percent of the population against one hundred percent of the hazards and vicissitudes of life, but we have tried to frame a law which will give some measure of protection to the average citizen and to his family against the loss of a job and against poverty-ridden old age."

Next month I'll get into more detail about how Social Security became the program we know now.

One of my references for this article is a school paper by Courtney Towle entitled: Barbara Nabethrieb Armstrong: A Driving Force Behind Social Security: <http://womenslegalhistory.stanford.edu/papers/courtneytowle.pdf>.

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