



LGBT Update December 09



Hi Everyone!

I hope your Thanksgiving Holiday was wonderful! I'm thankful that WLEN is moving forward into December and that we have such wonderful plans for the future year. We have applied for a second year of funding from The Greater Worcester Community Foundation and hope to hear one way or the other by Christmas. WLEN will continue its work with LGBT seniors, caregivers, and allies but we can do so much more as a grant recipient.

In the meantime, we've begun to create our Transgender Training which we will add to our current directory of Trainings for L-G-B-T. We're also planning a conference for Spring 2010 that will inform and educate providers and others who work with aging Transgender clients, friends, and families. More will be revealed as we move into the New Year.

Our Advisory Committees are up and running and looking for support from YOU! If you are interested in joining a committee or have a little time to help out please call Kathy or Ben at 508-756-1545 and we can send you in the right direction. We are looking for someone (or two) to Chair the Outreach/Marketing Committee. It is a wonderful opportunity to get involved at the onset. We are highlighting one of our Committees in each newsletter for the next several months and you'll find a highlight about the Health Resource Committee in this one.

Lets get together right after New Year's and we can renew our commitment to WLEN and its mission. We've been able to survive for almost a year and we have accomplished so much in the past six months. I'm looking forward to an exciting New Year. Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Social Corner



Come and join us on **December 17th at 12:00 Noon** for **WLEN's Potluck Holiday** Celebration at The Worcester Senior Center! After lunch we've been invited to join in on the **Senior Center's Holiday Gathering** which is going on at the same time. Call our Social Committee Chairperson Marty F @ 508-835-4640 or by

email @ martygf@aol.com if you have any comments or questions.

LGBT National Resource Center

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sibelius made an announcement in October about plans to establish the first national resource center to assist communities across the country in their efforts to provide services and support to older and aging lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people.

The New Beginning Initiative, which is a collaboration of 20+ national LGBT organizations, is moving to promote change within federal agencies in order to improve the lives of aging LGBT people. LGBT aging issues are a strong focal point of this collaboration and have been identified as a priority for The New Beginning Initiative. The proposed national resource center will offer critical information and resources to those aging and/or LGBT organizations trying so hard to reach the aging LGBT population.

Recognizing and addressing the needs of older LGBT adults is truly a new and exciting endeavor for our Administration on Aging who is advising us to create more safe and welcoming services for LGBT seniors. Until now, such services have been nonexistent and there has been no federal funding to address the ever growing needs of LGBT seniors. How exciting to see the Obama Administration, as well as the Department of Health and Human Services, working toward equality for LGBT's in aging services.

Committee Highlight

We thought it would be a good idea to tell all of you about WLEN's Advisory Committees in our monthly newsletters. The first committee we'll highlight is the Health Resource Committee.

This committee's primary responsibility is to WLEN's LGBT Resource Guide and its future. The Resource Guide was created as a tool to assist any LGBT senior, caregiver, or family member in locating health and aging resources in the Greater Worcester County area. We were fortunate to have been given AIDS Project Worcester's guide to use as a baseline by their Prevention and Education Coordinator, Jesse Pack. We've been able to use a number of resources from their guide that cover our area and are related to LGBT aging. We are now adding to that core of resources and putting WLEN's LGBT Aging Resource Guide together.

This committee has two chairpersons sharing the work and the responsibility: Peggy Kocoras and Mike West. Peggy brings a wealth of skills to the table and her background as a college English professor will be invaluable in creating the criteria to be used in putting resources in the guide. Mike has a great deal of technical know-how and is no stranger to the trials of getting the right information. His experience as Webmaster for Transgender American Vets Association represents only a fraction of Mike's abilities. With this team managing the Health Resource Committee it will be in good hands.



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Kathy McGrath
Elder Services of Worcester

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