



Vets Do Ask Do Tell, LLC

<http://www.vetsdoaskdotell.org>

Newsletter Vol. 1 Issue 6

June 1, 2009

Ask Not:

We received a request for a facilitator for the film “Ask Not” by Johnny Symons after the publication of our last newsletter. The film dealt with the political battles of “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”. The film is a documentary depicting the battle of health LGB men and women who want to serve their country being turned down because of their open lifestyle. Some of the films scenes were from historical footage, while part of the story showed the ordeal that gay service men and women had to go through to hide their lifestyle while serving.

The film was shown at the John Michael Kohler Art Center in Sheboygan, WI on May 12th before a liberal and conservative audience as part of a series of films presented to the community throughout the year.

Facilitators after the showing were: Ellen Kozel, President of Vets Do Ask Do Tell, Kathleen Nuemann, Vice- President of Vets Do Ask Do Tell, Jacquie Lindo, representing the Lesbian Alliance, and Tony Jorgenson representing the LGBT Community Center in Milwaukee.

Questions from the audience not only covered “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” but also gay marriage, domestic partnerships, HIV, and laws to protect the LGBT community from hate crimes. The response from the community was well received with a lot of additional conversation in the building after the presentation.

For those interested in the movie, you can go to <http://www.asknotfilm.com> . You can also go to http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/video/?video_id=157 for the PBS trailer on the movie. PBS to premier the film on June 16th, you can check your local PBS stations for a times and dates within your local area.



Well it was a busy weekend with lots to do. We had a great time. The meeting and greeting vets from all periods was a great experience. The parade was spectacular and all the exhibits were great. I want to thank Ken Hewitt for helping with setup, Jessica and Tabitha DeRosia, Bill Barrack and Kathy Nuemann for all their help over the two days. Kathy and I stayed for both days. Some of the events included a parade, battle reenactments, equipment and vehicle displays. The cemetery tour held at night was an emotional moment as different soldiers stories were given at the site of their graves. It was an overall great experience. Pictures are available on our website.

Ellen Kozel - President

Help Wanted:

Treasurer to serve on the Board of Directors ~ We are in search of a person with good mathematical skills to become our treasurer. Responsibilities include monthly financial reports, maintaining financial records and bank accounts belonging to our organization. They must be able to attend meetings usually held on the second Sunday of the month in the afternoons.

Anyone interested in helping out can email ellen.kozel@vetsdoaskdotell.org

Both positions are strictly volunteer. If you have a friend that can help out please forward this to them. Board members do not have to be an LGBT veteran. We are a diverse organization servicing all veterans with a focus on the LGBT community and its veterans. We are all brothers and sisters who served our country.

Vets Do Ask Do Tell, LLC does not discriminate against sex, race, color, religion, creed, age, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital status or parental status, sexual orientation or lifestyle or disability.

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.

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 May meeting has been moved to June 7th instead of our regular day because of our involvement with Pridefest 2009 which falls on our regular meeting date. In July, we should be back on our regular schedule.**

Up and Coming Events:

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.



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.

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 ~

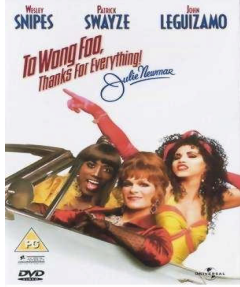
To subscribe to this newsletter write to president@vetsdoaskdotell.org . Events coming up in your local area that you would like to have printed in our newsletter must be submitted no later than the last week of the month.

Editor – Ellen Kozel

Other Events:



1239 W Mineral St
Milwaukee, WI 53211



MCC Movie Night

To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything!

Starring:

Patrick Swayze, Wesley Snipes and John Leguizamo

Friday June 19th 7:00 pm

Bring yourself, a friend or two & enjoy a great movie