



Rainbow Connection

Prairie Pride Coalition

Spring 2018

Come to our Family Reunion Picnic June 10. (We're turning 21!)



The Prairie Pride Coalition will sponsor our annual Family Reunion Picnic beginning at noon on Sunday, June 10 under the east shelter at Anderson Park in Normal.

This year marks the 21st edition of the picnic...believed to be the oldest such event in central Illinois!

To celebrate, this year PPC is providing all the food for the picnic - main dish, side items, and drinks. It is our way of saying thank you for 21 years of support.

In return, we are encouraging attendees to bring an item to donate to Project Oz's youth homeless project. We selected this organization because statistics consistently indicate that LGBTQ youth make up a

disproportionate percentage of the homeless youth population.

Project Oz needs items such as gift cards to fast food restaurants; gas cards; travel size hygiene items; trash bags; paper towels; new socks; sunscreen; bus tokens; bottled water; and umbrellas.

Soon we will create a Facebook event for the picnic; in the meantime, if you have questions please contact us at info@ppc-il.org.

Pride Celebrations Right Around the Corner

In the next few weeks many of our local and regional neighbors will celebrate pride with festivals, concerts, picnics, and parades. This list, while not exhaustive, includes many of the events within driving distance.

Springfield Pridefest - Saturday, May 19. This festival celebrates its eighth year with the theme "No H8. No Labels." The day includes a pride parade, two stages of entertainment, food and drink vendors, merchandise vendors, and information booths. For more information go to <http://www.springfieldpride.org/> or

search "Springfield Pridefest 2018" in Facebook.

Quad Cities Unity Pride Week 2018 - June 1-9. This week-long fest includes a pub crawl, drag race, pride brunch, family night, and culminates with a pride parade at noon on Saturday, June 9. For more information go to www.qcunitypride.org.

PrideFest Milwaukee - June 7-10 on Milwaukee's lakefront. Performers including the B-52's, lots of food, and tons of vendor booths are a part of this

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SAVE THE DATE: Voices of Pride Festival September 8-9

Prairie Pride Coalition is proud to announce that it is sponsoring a Coalescence Theater Project full stage production of IWU alumnus Ian Fields Stewart's 2015 play, *A Dying Breed*, in the Normal Theater on September 8th and 9th (Saturday & Sunday). This play speaks to universal truths affecting people across race, gender, socioeconomic status, and many other backgrounds. Please save the date!

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four-day event at Milwaukee's Lakefront Festival Park. Search "PrideFest Milwaukee 2018" on Facebook for more details.

Andersonville Midsommarfest - June 8-10 in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood. This increasingly-popular street festival is not strictly a pride event but it has a queer sensibility and is in an area that is quickly becoming home to increasing numbers of LGBTQ people.

Peoria LGBTQ+ Community Cookout - Saturday, June 9. The fourth annual

event will be under the Dogwood Shelter at Detweiller Park. Organizers will supply the meat and attendees are asked to bring a food item to share. The picnic which includes information booths and games begins at 1 p.m. For more information look for the Facebook event "4th Annual LGBTQ+ Community Cookout."

Prairie Pride Coalition "Family Reunion" Picnic - Sunday, June 10. See article in this newsletter for more information.

Aurora Inaugural Pride Parade - Sunday, June 17. Aurora is the state's second largest city and the organizers decided it was time for them to have a pride

event of their own! The parade kicks off at noon in downtown Aurora. For more information go to the parade's Facebook group page.

Chicago Pridefest 2018 - June 16-17 in Chicago's Boystown neighborhood. This weekend street festival includes food, drink, and multiple stages of entertainment including Belinda Carlisle. Search "Chicago Pride Fest" on Facebook for more information.

Chicago Pride Parade - Sunday, June 24. This granddaddy of pride parades celebrates its 49th anniversary this year. Head to Boystown where the parade will kick off at noon.

April 5 Town Hall Featuring State Senator Barickman and Representative Brady



Almost 60 community members came out for an LGBTQ Town Hall/Tabling Event on April 5 at the YWCA of McLean County to be part of a discussion with local elected officials.

Sen. Jason Barickman and Rep. Dan Brady accepted our invitation to attend the discussion that was moderated by Anthony Galloway from Equality Illinois.

Barickman displayed a good grasp of the issues of interest to our community. He was the only Republican senator to

vote for the marriage equality bill in 2013 and recently supported the LGBTQ curriculum bill when it came up for a vote in a Senate committee hearing.

Brady's support has been less, although Galloway noted that he supported a bill that abolished the "gay panic" defense that was so often used when members of our community were assaulted.

The evening also featured a tabling event that featured LGBTQI-supportive organizations providing information

about their groups.

The event was co-sponsored by Prairie Pride Coalition and Equality Illinois. We appreciate and thank Barickman and Brady for attending the event.



- The Bistro is now open every Friday at 5 for Happy hour.
- This Friday, May 4, for Cinco De Mayo we are doing a taco bar, margaritas and music by Alex Jordine. Following will be talent night. We will do this for our friend Rick Brodus who passed away recently, with proceeds from the door to his family.
- We also have Improv Attack every Friday at 8:30.
- Show on Friday, May 11th.
- Fund raiser for Jenn Carillo on Friday, May 18th.

HIV-Specific Criminal Laws

During the early years of the HIV epidemic, a number of states implemented HIV-specific criminal exposure laws. These laws impose criminal penalties on people living with HIV who know their HIV status and who potentially expose others to HIV. In 1990, the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act, which provides states with funds for AIDS treatment and care, required every state to certify that its criminal laws were adequate to prosecute any HIV-infected individual who knowingly exposed another person to HIV.¹

Criminalization of potential HIV exposure is largely a matter of state law, although some federal legislation addresses criminalization in discrete areas, such as blood donation. The National HIV/AIDS Strategy, released by the White House in July 2010, provides some guidance regarding the issue of criminalization, noting that in some instances, existing HIV exposure laws may need to be re-examined.²

An analysis by CDC and Department of Justice researchers found that, by 2011, a total of 67 laws explicitly focused on persons living with HIV had been enacted in 33 states.³ These laws vary as to what behaviors are criminalized or result in additional penalties. In 24 states, laws require persons who are aware that they have HIV to disclose their status to sexual partners and 14 states require disclosure to needle-sharing partners. Twenty-five states criminalize one or more behaviors that pose a low or negligible risk for HIV transmission.

The majority of laws identified for the analysis were passed before studies

showed that antiretroviral therapy (ART) reduces HIV transmission risk and most do not account for HIV prevention measures that reduce transmission risk, such as condom use, ART, or pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). The analysis encouraged states with HIV-specific criminal laws to use its findings to re-examine state laws, assess the laws' alignment with current evidence regarding HIV transmission risk, and consider whether the laws are the best vehicle by which to achieve their intended purposes.

It should be noted that all states have general criminal laws—such as assault and battery, reckless endangerment, and attempted murder—that can and have been used to prosecute individuals for any of the above-mentioned behaviors.

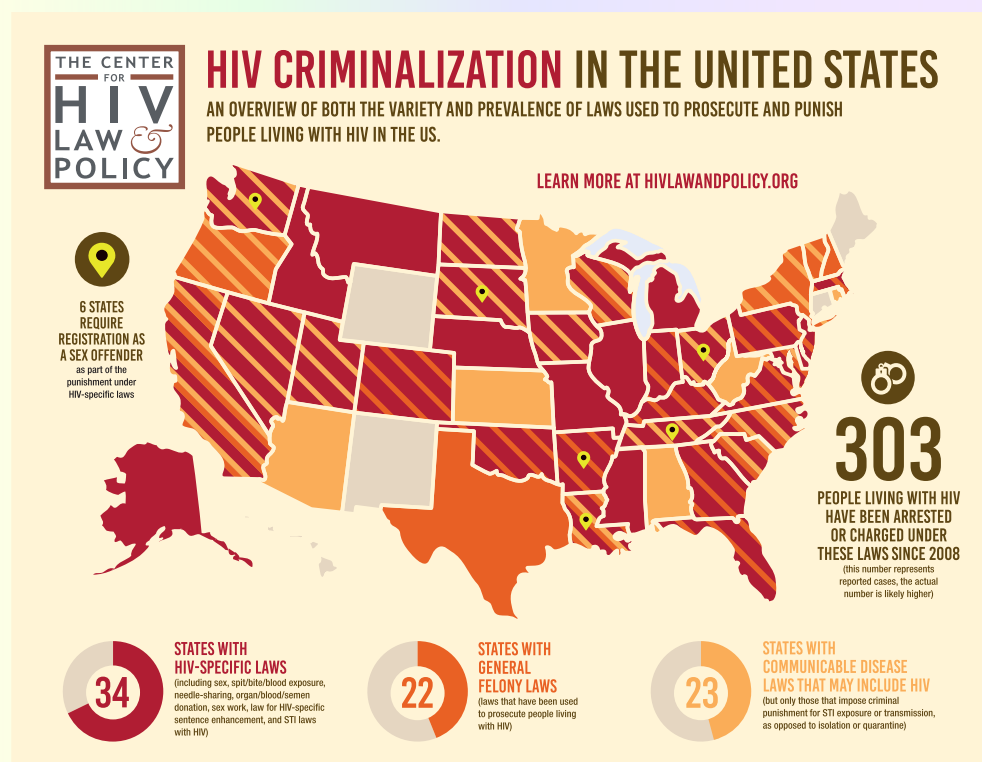
¹ Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-381; 104 Stat. 576).

² National HIV/AIDS Strategy See recommended action 3.3 – Promote

public health approaches to HIV prevention and care: State legislatures should consider reviewing HIV-specific criminal statutes to ensure that they are consistent with current knowledge of HIV transmission and support public health approaches to preventing and treating HIV.

³ Lehman, JS, Carr, MH., Nichol, AJ, et al. Prevalence and public health implications of state laws that criminalize potential HIV exposure in the United States. AIDS Behav 2014.

The information presented here does not constitute legal advice and does not represent the legal views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Health and Human Services, nor is it a comprehensive analysis of all legal provisions relevant to HIV. This information is subject to change and does not contain measures implemented by counties, cities, or other localities. Use of any provision herein should be contemplated only in conjunction with advice from legal counsel.



LGBTQI+ Business & Resource Directory Update



We are seeking to update the Bloomington/Normal **Area LGBTQI+ Business and Resource Directory** in preparation for a new edition later this year!

If you would like to be included in the directory (online version can be viewed on our web site www.ppc-il.org) please complete the online registration at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FNY38RN>. If you know of a business or resource that should be a part of the directory please forward the link to them.

If you are a member of the directory but your information has changed, please send us an e-mail at info@ppc-il.org.

The deadline to submit changes or register for membership in the directory is Aug. 1. Questions about the directory can be directed to info@ppc-il.org.



Changes Coming to Prairie Pride Coalition Web Site

In the coming weeks look for a new, revamped web site from Prairie Pride Coalition!

Board member Olemuel Ashford has been coordinating the effort in collaboration with 48 in 48, a localized effort to help 48 not-for-profit organizations during a 48-hour period in creating new, dynamic web sites for the organizations.

Continue to check our site www.ppc-il.org from time to time to see our new look!

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