



February 2009

SAGE NEWS

SAGE Metro St. Louis

Restless in St. Louis

Having just returned from a five day trip to Denver, CO to attend the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force “Creating Change” Conference, I find myself *restless in St. Louis*. Restless due to the renewed energy and motivation to continue the work of SAGE Metro St. Louis. Several LGBT community members from the St. Louis area joined with over 2,000 fellow community organizers as we networked and shared best practices in the work we do for equality in areas such youth, older adults, minority outreach, gender identity, HIV/AIDS prevention, anti-violence, health/mental health, and spirituality, just to name a few. Regardless of the set backs felt in states such as Arkansas, California, and Florida, LGBT activists are fired-up and ready to engage our communities in the name of LGBT equality.

The work that lies ahead of us requires involvement at the local, state and national level. I encourage you to join in these efforts by making plans to attend the PROMO LGBT Equality Day on March 25th. SAGE and PROMO will provide a Lobby Day training on February 12th. Details on both events can be found inside this newsletter.

Moving our communities forward in the name of LGBT equality is strengthened by each voice that joins the progressive movement of LGBT community organizers and activists. I hope your voice will join in this movement today!

Juke Box Jamboree—Benefit Drag Show

Join SAGE at the Grey Fox for an evening of entertainment featuring a cast of performers with hosts Tabbi Katt and Veronica Leigh Taylor. All tips and 50/50 raffle proceeds will benefit **SAGE Metro St. Louis**. Come out and show your support for SAGE!

Event Details:
Thursday, February 26
9 p.m.
Grey Fox Pub
3503 S. Spring Ave
St. Louis, MO 63116

Inside this issue:

<i>Tax News You Can Use</i>	2
SAGE Events	3-6

SAGE Blog

Check out the SAGE Metro St. Louis Blog for regular updates on news concerning aging in society today. The blog can be found be at: <http://sagemetrostl.blogspot.com/>

Tax News You Can Use

If you are a senior citizen, caregiver or a person with a disability, Missouri and Illinois have Tax Credit programs that you may qualify for. Following is a description of these programs and contact information for filing assistance:

Missouri Property Tax Credit (Circuit Breaker)

This program provides a partial refund of paid real estate taxes ranging up to \$750 for renters and \$1,100 for home owners. Qualifications include: Claimant must 65 or older as of 12.31.2008; or 100% disabled and over the age of 18; or 60 years old and receiving surviving spouse social security benefits; Missouri resident for entire year; Nursing home residents may file as renters. For filing assistance contact the following offices or your accountant:

City of St. Louis Area Agency on Aging: (314) 612-5918

St. Louis County—County Older Resident Programs: (314) 615-4516

Mid-East Area Agency on Aging (Serving the following counties: St. Louis, St. Charles, Franklin and Jefferson): 1-800-AGE-6060

Homestead Preservation Credit (Not applicable if you take the Missouri Property Tax Credit)

This program provides credit on your property tax credit bill the year following application. Credit equals the amount above a 5% increase in reassessment years and 2.5% in non-reassessment years. Qualifications include: Single—65 or older on January 1 of application year. Married—one spouse must be 65 or older and the other at least 60 on January 1 of application. Age criteria is waived if either spouse is 100% disabled. Claimant must own and reside at property for at 3 years prior to application. Property owned jointly with children is NOT eligible; property held in trust IS eligible. Annual income limit is single or married filing jointly: \$77,323.

Application deadline is October 15, 2009. For more information speak with your accountant or call:

Missouri Department of Revenue: (573) 751-3505 or (314) 877-0177

Missouri Shared Care Tax Credit

Provides a tax credit to help families offset the costs of caring for an older adult (age 60 or older) and you meet the following criteria: The caregiver must care for an elderly person, age sixty or older, who: is physically or mentally incapable of living alone, as determined and certified by his or her licensed physician or by the Division of Senior and Disability Services, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services staff; and requires assistance with activities of daily living to the extent that without care and oversight at home would require placement in a facility; and under no circumstances, is able or allowed to operate a motor vehicle; and does not receive funding or services through Medicaid or social services block grant funding; The caregiver must live in the same residence to give protective oversight for an aggregate of more than six months per tax year; and the caregiver must not receive monetary compensation for providing care for the elderly person. For more information on this program, contact the Department of Health and Senior Services at: 1-800-235-5530.

Illinois Tax News...

Illinois Circuit Breaker Program

Provides grants to senior citizens and persons with disabilities to help reduce the impact of taxes and prescription drugs. If you pay property taxes on your home, or if you rent or live in a nursing, retirement, or shelter care home, you may be able to receive a grant up to \$700. For more information contact the Area Agency on Aging of Southwestern Illinois at (618) 222-2567.



AARP Tax-Aid Site

The AARP provides free one-on-one counseling and assistance to help individuals prepare basic tax forms including 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ and other standard schedules. To find an AARP Tax-Aid Site visit the following website:

https://locator.aarp.org/vmis/sites/tax_aide_locator.jsp

Or call:

1-866-389-5627 (Missouri)

1-866-448-3613 (Illinois)

SAGE and PROMO Host Equality Day Training

Each year PROMO sponsors the Equality Day in Jefferson City, where LGBT advocates and allies walk the halls of the state capitol, speaking with state legislators. Again this year, MONA (Missouri Nondiscrimination Act) will be introduced by LGBT supportive legislators. SAGE and PROMO will provide training for LGBT older adults regarding tips for speaking with legislators and how MONA impacts you as an older adult.

If you cannot join us and want more information, feel free to contact the SAGE office.

Date: Thursday, February 12, 2009

Time: 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Location:

LGBT Community Center

625 N. Euclid – Suite 420

St. Louis, MO 63108

SAGE Drop-In

The SAGE Drop-In is back for the new year. The SAGE Drop-In occurs every Thursday afternoon from 12 noon – 4 p.m. and is open to all older adults looking for a safe space to gather for lively discussion, friendship, movies, and board games. During the winter months in St. Louis, it is often hard to predict the weather. In the event that bad weather causes us to cancel the SAGE Drop-In, an email will be sent by 10 am on the morning of the Drop-In. Feel free to bring your lunch and join in on the fun.

Date: Every Thursday

Time: 12:00 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Location:

LGBT Community Center

625 N. Euclid – Suite 420

St. Louis, MO 63108

SAGE Luncheon at Tower Grove Manor

Make plans to join us for a free luncheon and open house at Tower Grove Manor managed by St. Andrews Senior Solutions. St. Andrews recently joined our growing referral network and SAGE will be working with them to better meet the housing needs of LGBT older adults. RSVP today to learn more about the services provided by Tower Grove Manor and St. Andrews. RSVP by phone at: 314-821-4845 or email: swayland@sagemetrostl.org

Date: Wednesday, February 18th

Time: 11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Location:

Tower Grove Manor

2710 South Grand Blvd.

St. Louis, MO

SAGE Monthly LGBT Grief Discussion Group

SAGE is starting a Monthly LGBT Grief Discussion Group. This group is open to any LGBT adult (18 or older) who has experienced the death of a partner, family member and/or friend. This group has been started to provide ongoing support outside of our 6-week LGBT Grief Support Group.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend this the Monthly LGBT Grief Discussion Group by contacting us at:

314-821-4845

Or email

swayland@sagemetrostl.org

Date: 3rd Tuesday of each Month starting Feb. 17th

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Location:

LGBT Community Center

625 N. Euclid – Suite 420

St. Louis, MO 63108



SAGE LGBT 6-Week Grief Support Groups

SAGE LGBT Grief Support Groups are open to all LGBT adults (18 or older) who have experienced the death of a partner, family member and/or friend. SAGE is currently taking registration for the March/April Grief Support Group, with additional groups being planned for June, September and December. Reserve your space for the next group by calling:

314-821-4845

or email

swayland@sagemetrostl.org

Date: Thursdays, March 5—April 9, 2009

Time: 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Location:

LGBT Community Center

625 N. Euclid – Suite 420

St. Louis, MO 63108

Coming Out in Later Life - Presentation - March 7

SAGE will be facilitating a roundtable discussion about "Coming Out" in later life at the "Celebrating Women: Reinventing Ourselves After 50" conference to be held at the University of Missouri—St. Louis. The discussion will include an understanding of the coming out process and the experiences of older women who came out after the age of 50 and the supports available in the community.

The conference is free, with a \$5 charge if you wish to have lunch.

For more information and registration contact UMSL at:

(314) 516-5974

[/www.umsel.edu/divisions/conted/conferences/celebrating/schedule.html](http://www.umsel.edu/divisions/conted/conferences/celebrating/schedule.html)

PROMO LGBT Equality Day - March 25

Join with SAGE Metro St. Louis as we attend the PROMO LGBT Equality Day in Jefferson City. This is your opportunity to join with advocates from across Missouri as we speak with our elected officials regarding LGBT equality.

PROMO will provide bus transportation from St. Louis to Jefferson City. A registration fee is required: \$15 (\$5 for students/low income)

Register with PROMO by March 18th to ensure space on the bus by calling or registering online at:

(314) 862-4900

or

<http://promoonline.org>



Missouri State Capitol

February 2009

SAGE Metro St. Louis
P.O. Box 260016
St. Louis, MO 63126

Phone: (314) 821-4845
email: swayland@sagemetrostl.org
web: www.SageMetroSTL.org



SAGE Metro St. Louis strives to enhance the quality of life of LGBT older adults through service, advocacy and community awareness.

LGBT Caregivers

Are you an LGBT Caregiver providing support for a partner, parent, friend or other family member. If you answered yes, then SAGE wants to hear from you. Please take 5-10 minutes and visit our website to complete our online LGBT Caregiver survey. Your feedback will assist us as we develop support programs for LGBT Caregivers.

Take the survey today by visiting our homepage at:

www.SageMetroSTL.org

Thank you—it is important that we hear from you!

Founding Board of SAGE Metro St. Louis

Barbara Gilchrist, JD, PhD, Board President - St. Louis University Law Clinic

Ernest Gonzales, MSW - PhD Student, Board Vice-President - George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University in St. Louis

Anneliese Stoeber, MSW, Board Secretary/Treasurer, - St. Louis Area Agency on Aging

Charlotte Ellis - Old Lesbians Organizing for Change

Dennis Hostetler, PhD - PrimeTimers St. Louis

Carl Lathan - Hope Hospice

Charles Koehler - PrimeTimers St. Louis

Denise King, PhD - University of Missouri St. Louis, School of Social Work

Rudy Nickens - The Black Rep, Executive Director

Eugene Potchen-Webb, Business Owner and Trans Educator

Staff

Sherrill Wayland, MSW - Executive Director