

"It was easy to sign up and get trained," Kraig says. "Training sessions are held on several different days to accommodate most all interested parties."

Security crew duties include helping with booth setup, distributing trash receptacles, dealing with hecklers both on the festival grounds and parade route, reuniting lost children with their guardians and acting as a general festival presence.

"There are volunteer opportunities for altered people and folks with all types of talents. It's fun to volunteer with a friend," Barbara says. The Pride Northwest "board of directors does an awesome job of not just organizing the event and fund raising but also working around the clock at the festival. The experience of community and celebration impressed me so much that I couldn't imagine not coming back for more. [There is] such a spirit of acceptance and appreciation...the memories last all year long!"

Should you volunteer at Pride this year? "Without hesitation!" Kraig says. "The people are what make this event, and it has been just a privilege to work with the staff at Pride. Even though my contribution to the festival is very small, I have always been treated as family."

To volunteer call 360-936-5190 or 503-725-5676, e-mail volunteer@pridenw.org or visit www.pridenw.org.

PLANNING PRIDE

Organizers of Salem's Capitol Pride will hold a preliminary committee meeting 6:30 p.m. April 10 at the 300 Club, 300 Liberty St. S.E.

This year's festival is scheduled for June 28. Organizers are seeking 501(c)3 organizations that might be willing to sponsor the event.

The meeting will focus on finance, location, media, entertainment, speakers, setup and breakdown, security, volunteers, booths and vendors, youth events and fund raising. Committee chairpeople will be selected as well.

For more information contact chairwoman Dani Leis at 503-831-3278, 503-930-7260 or leis@earthlink.net.

ENLIST NOW

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network—the national watchdog group dedicated to ending discrimination and harassment of military personnel affected by "don't ask, don't tell"—will hit the road this summer.

Although a Portland visit has not been scheduled, the legal eagles will be at Seattle Pride on June 29.

People who plan on visiting the Emerald City are asked to consider helping staff SLDN's booth. In exchange for a few hours of service, volunteers will receive a free T-shirt. Duties typically include helping with setup and teardown and distributing vital legal information to servicemembers, their families and their friends.

To volunteer e-mail vbhatia@sldn.org, indicating "Seattle Pride" in the subject line.

CIVIL RIGHTS BILL OK'D

The Washington House of Representatives approved legislation March 17 that expands the jurisdiction of the Human Rights Commission and that includes sexual orientation in state anti-discrimination laws. House Bill 1809 passed 59-39 and is on its way to the Senate for consideration.

CONFAB ADDRESSES ELDER CONCERNS

Portland State University's Graduate School of Social Work is planning an afternoon conference in which participants can learn more about the perspectives of queer seniors, including local advocacy efforts, legal and social service needs and clinical issues.

"Coming Out and Staying Out: Practice Issues with Older Gays and Lesbians" will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. April 4 in Room 485 at the University Center Building, 527 S.W. Hall St. Donations will be accepted.

The program will begin with a lecture by Dr. Patrick Arbore of the San Francisco Center for Elderly Suicide Prevention and Grief Related Services, who will address the effects of ageism and homophobia on gay, lesbian, bi and trans individuals. His presentation also will discuss the loneliness, despair and depression of this population as well as substance abuse and other forms of escape.

The next session will address the needs of local queer seniors and the community response to them. Paul Jarrobino of the Elder Resource Alliance and Mary Beth Brindley of Senior Housing and Retirement Enterprises will discuss the results of a local survey regarding housing and service needs and review best

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Pride Northwest needs hundreds of volunteers for this year's festivities

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