



PGMC members will take Flight for Freedom.

Story collection forms can be accessed by visiting bit.ly/g5rvgx. Submissions will be accepted through the end of May.

BRO brings its considerable voice to the state Capitol in commemoration of International Workers' Day Sunday, May 1 in Salem during CAUSA's May Day March and Rally. Thousands are expected to march in solidarity for immigrant and workers' rights as well as to celebrate the resiliency of LGBTQ immigrants in our communities.

For more information, visit basicrights.org.

Community News in Brief

• On April 8, the Sexual Minority Leadership Roundtable hosted a launch party for the newly redeveloped community website GayVancouverWA.org.

Last March, following an outcry for a comprehensive resource tool for the LGBTQ population in Vancouver from community members and activists, the idea for the site took shape. While under construction for the past several months, the site brought together members of Southwest Washington's LGBTQ community, as well as regional service providers and volunteers. Boasting frequently updated syndicated news content, a calendar of local events and a current LGBTQ resource list, the new site reinforces the commitment made by SMLR to identify services for the LGBTQ community and to advocate for missing resources.

SMLR members are looking for volunteers to find and contact LGBTQ resources in Southwest Washington for inclusion on the site. Those interested in submitting photos and news articles to feature on the site, or to volunteer in any capacity, should visit gayvancouverwa.org for more information.

To join SMLR's email list, contact LesBrown@pacifier.net.

• To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York City, **Flight for Freedom returns to the Big Apple** September 9-12 in observance and dedication of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum. Coming along for the ride is the 130-strong Portland Gay Men's Chorus.

The Flight for Freedom began as a response to 9/11, when in the spirit of unity and pride, 1,000 Oregonians and citizens of Southwest Washington visited New York City just three weeks after the attacks. They were the first group to travel to the city, which at the time was in need of both moral and economic sup-

port. The group returned again in 2006 for the five-year anniversary.

This year, PGMC plays a big part in the observance of this event. The chorus will be part of the Peace & Unity Concert, sponsored by Flight for Freedom and held Sunday, September 11 at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The concert is to feature several artists from Oregon during the first half of the show, followed by a full production of PGMC's stirring "BraveSouls and Dreamers" in the second half.

For more information, visit flightforfreedom.com.

• The recently formed LGBTQ Health Coalition of the Columbia-Willamette has appealed to the Oregon Health Authority, urging it to take a closer look at the needs of LGBTQ Oregonians while it traverses Oregon's health care reform process in the coming year.

Issued in response to the Institute of Medicine's March 31 release of the report "The Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People: Building a Foundation for Better Understanding" and the National LGBT Health Coalition's "Call to Action" for National LGBT Health Awareness Week, the appeal to the OHA is seen by the LGBTQ Health Coalition of Columbia-Willamette as a strong step in ensuring that the community is represented as policies are being shaped that could impact countless sexual minorities in Oregon.

"The health insurance exchange is a key area where non-discrimination can be integrated into practice," says Erin Reid, project coordinator for Quest Center for Integrative Health. "As more and more Oregonians gain access to healthcare via the statewide healthcare reform process, it's critical that the Oregon Health Authority responds to the needs of those identifying as LGBTQ to ensure that services provided are identified as culturally competent and supportive of the unique needs of LGBTQ people."

The coalition has yet to hear any direct response from OHA.

Those interested in sharing their stories with the OHA to raise awareness of health problems facing LGBTQ Oregonians, as well as those who simply want to become more involved with the LGBTQ Health Coalition of the Columbia-Willamette, are encouraged to contact project coordinator Erin Reid via email at erin@quest-center.org, or by calling 503-238-5203 ext. 204.

• Following a tough few years dealing with a harsh economic climate in the downtown commercial area, **Gary Hopping and Ron**

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