



## Waunakee Rotary Club

Oct. 26, 2006  
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Tamara Packard of Fair Wisconsin came to the Oct. 19 meeting of the Waunakee Rotary Club to urge a "No" vote on a proposed amendment to the state constitution.

The wording of the proposal is: "Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized in this state."

Tamara, an attorney, is involved in the fight against this proposal, which will be on the ballot Nov. 7.

Polling shows the voters are in a statistical tie with the election just a few weeks away, she said.

The issue touches all kinds of families in Wisconsin. Current state law defines a marriage as a civil arrangement contract between one man and one woman. The amendment would not change that definition.

It would, Tamara said, prohibit the legislature from enacting a law – similar to Vermont's civil union legislation and California's domestic partnership law – which would help gay and lesbian and unmarried straight couples achieve the rights and responsibilities of a family without being married.

Currently, many gay and lesbian couples in Wisconsin are functioning as families, and they and their children need to be recognized as families to protect their rights and responsibilities, she said.

Gay and lesbian couples pay taxes, attend church, engage in business and have minor children in the household, she said. They face the same challenges that heterosexual couples do, she said.

They are spending thousands of dollars on joint property agreements, co-parenting agreements and other steps to afford them the protections

and responsibilities that come automatically to marriage. The civil union concept is a compromise which would be unavailable if the state constitutional amendment proposal is enacted.

Enactment of the amendment could discourage creative and skilled workers from coming to Wisconsin for employment, she said.

The amendment was introduced by right-wingers as a wedge issue to bring people to the polls, Tamara said. Conservatives delayed its appearance on the ballot for 1 1/2 years so it would have an impact on the campaigns for governor and attorney general, she said.

This issue is not about religion, she emphasized. And the real threat to marriage today is posed by poverty, violence and infidelity, she said.

#### Other items:

- Lynne Spielman will go to Nigeria soon. She'll come back looking for money for more international projects, including one to help young women return to school. She and others also will be looking for projects that will involve more Rotary clubs in Nigeria and the U.S.

- Tom Reis says this year's Rotary lights project will include five Christmas trees that can be purchased and decorated according to themes.

- Rotary needs a chairperson for the Thanksgiving breakfast.

Guests: Mike Lawrence, guest of Jim Tubbs.

Visiting Rotarians: Susan Springman, DOWNTOWN; Shawn Fischer, MADISON SOUTH; Lon Foree, SUN PRAIRIE.

Birthdays: Oct. 26, Betsy Flanagan; Oct. 29, Lori Derauf.

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### Calendar of Events:

Nov. 27 - Rotary Lights ceremony

Jan. 26, Christmas party

March 29-April 12, Russian visitors

May 4-6, District Conference

Anniversaries: Oct. 29, Tom and Joan Laufenberg; Oct. 30, Amy Gile-Enge and John Enge; Nov. 1, Neil and Lily King.

Prayers: Oct. 26, Msgr. Kramer; Nov. 2, Susan Vergeront; Nov. 9, Leonard Allen.

Programs: Oct. 26, the pork industry, Mike Wehler; Nov. 2, Club Assembly; Nov. 9, Tony Shriver, animal assisted therapy; Nov. 16, Special Olympics; Nov. 23, THANKSGIVING; Nov. 30, Hospice Care; Dec. 7, Club Assembly.

Greeters: Oct. 26, Ken Ballweg and Ron Ballweg; Nov. 2, Roberta Baumann and Connie Blau; Nov. 9, Jason Brown and Jim Brussell; Nov. 16, Frank Bucaida and Kathy Cefalu; Nov. 23, THANKSGIVING; Nov. 30, Scott Cochems and John Cullen.

## Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is [www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org). Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.