

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

September 18, 2001

Board Meeting Minutes

The PFLAG NH Board of Directors met on Tuesday, September 18, 2001, at South Congregational Church in Concord, New Hampshire. In attendance were: John Monroe, Gordon Sherman, Roberta Barry, Lisa Nachbaur, Gayle Spelman, Margie Lindsley, Jeremy Winnick, Lisa Hartley, Betty Batchelder, Ruth Smith, Duncan McInnes, and Paula Spink.

John opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. He introduced Lisa Nachbaur as the new Board Member from GLSEN, replacing Elizabeth Meyer.

Items Discussed:

1. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

The Board reviewed the minutes for the June Board meeting and the minutes of the Retreat held in August. Both minutes were approved. A discussion about the minutes appearing in the Sept/Oct Newsletter began with Ruth Smith. She questioned the wisdom of placing this in the newsletter. Margie L. reported hearing positive comments on the appearance of the meeting minutes, while John M. and Lisa H. stated that it might be better if a summary of the minutes is included in the newsletter.

2. Sub-Committee Reports:

Advocacy: Ruth S. reported that the "Freedom to Marry" letters were sent and that seven meetings have been scheduled as a result. She is hoping that PFLAG members will attend these meetings. People will be encouraged to join, support, and contribute to fund-raising efforts at these informational meetings. If there are any questions, please call her or Beth McGuinn. She also stated that the NH FTM group has forwarded the first group of petitions to the State House. Ruth asked about PFLAG NH being a sponsor of several of the FTM state meetings, because the meeting venues have a different cost scale for 501©3 groups (or groups sponsored by these) than for a "normal" renter. John said that he would check with Peggy and PFLAG National concerning potential conflicts with PFLAG's charter, and barring problems, PFLAG NH would be able to act as a sponsor. .

Administration/Finance: John Monroe announced that he and Carol Perkins are now the signatories for the Fidelity Account. The Financial Report for the 1,2 and 3rd Quarters was distributed to the members by John M. It was noted that the year date was incorrect. With the date corrected to read "2001", Lisa H. moved to approve the minutes with Gordon S. seconding the motion. Motion carried. John M. reported that there were two applicants for the position of Board Administrative Assistant. They will be interviewed soon, in hopes of a decision being made before the next Board meeting in October.

Communications: Margie L. expressed the importance of sending the newsletter and PFLAG literature immediately after receiving calls on the Hot line or from Chapter contacts who have received calls. There have been incidences of people waiting an unusual amount of time for these items.

Jeremy W. discussed the PFLAG NH website. He is hoping for guidance from the Board members concerning discrepancies on the back page of the newsletter. He asked if this same information should appear on the website.

Ruth S. suggested that parents be asked if they want their phone numbers to appear on the website. The "other organizations" column will be checked for accuracy. Changes were noted in other columns also. It was mentioned that David Pendleton, who serves as Newsletter Editor, is not responsible for the last page of the newsletter. The Administrative Assistant maintains this page. Jeremy W. will send Board members an e-mail message with the new website address and other information.

Fund-Raising: There was no report yet available on the results of the spring fund-raising letters.

Nominations: Betty B. volunteered to chair the Nominating Committee and Ruth S. will serve on the committee.

Membership: John M. will write the Fall Membership Drive letter.

Education, Outreach & Program Development:

Roberta B. asked if anyone has heard any responses to the GLSEN letter. She suggested that the Board send a “follow-up” letter. Roberta read her draft of a form letter to be sent to school superintendents and principals regarding PFLAG’s safe schools program. She also suggested that a self-addressed, stamped envelope or card be included in the mailing for the purpose of responding to us with requests for literature, speakers, etc. Ruth S. suggested adding the words, “We know you are concerned with the safety of your students, and so are we”. Roberta also mentioned adding a local phone number to call for more information. Lisa N. will provide Roberta with a list of school superintendents who received the GLSEN letters. Roberta agreed to write the letters and arrange for mailing.

Margie L. will handle book order requests for “Hatred in the Hallways”.

The Board discussed the need for a PFLAG NH speaking team, to make presentations to educators. It was agreed that the Education Committee would meet soon.

“National Coming Out Day”: Lisa N. gave a report on the “Coming Out Day Rally For Safe Schools” to be held on Oct. 13th at Concord Capitol Plaza. The event is co-sponsored by GLSEN-Lakes Region and PFLAG-NH. A suggestion was made to contact Les Norman and ask him to speak, as a parent from PFLAG, at the Rally. Lisa H. will also be speaking at the Rally.

Safe Schools: This topic was covered in the reading and discussion of Roberta’s letter to the School Superintendents.

3. Chapter Reports:

North Country/Lancaster – Doris Youngholm reported to John M. that their September meeting had Mark Noel speaking, and the meeting was held at the Lancaster Library, which is next door to their regular meeting place at the church. In October they plan to be a presence at the educators workshop at White Mts. Regional H.S. and also at a Harvest Day Festival in the Park at Lancaster.

Concord – Margie L. reported that the August meeting had low attendance. A new couple joined their chapter as well as another individual. They

discussed bi-sexuality and straight spouse issues. The September program, featured the authors of “Sisters by Heart – Partners in Aging”. This meeting was well attended and lively discussion followed the presentation. The October program, with Mark Noel from the New England Coalition for inclusive scouting, will speak to them.

Keene – Roberta B. reported that they had a low attendance at their last meeting but did have a new person attend. Their next meeting will be an event planning session.

Laconia/Lakes Region – Gayle S. announced that four people attended the August cookout. Fifteen people attended the September meeting, which included two new parents. The chapter’s Trans Coordinator spoke to the group about the video to be shown at the October meeting.

Seacoast – Betty B. reported that the chapter had “Video Night” at the August meeting. Excerpts of videos from their collection of commercial films were recorded by two of their members. In September they will present a skit, “Homophobic Remarks”, composed of experiences related by the attendees.

GLSEN- Lisa N. discussed the new brochure “Youth on Board” which will be used for Training Day in Boston. She said that GLSEN would be willing to sponsor a student and asked if PFLAG could find an Outright student to attend. John M. will contact the SeaCoast Outright group.

Straight Spouse - Duncan M. reported that there have been about 4 to 5 spouses attending the meetings. He stressed the use of the newly issued “Opening the Straight Spouses Closet” booklet. He says it is a great introductory tool, as well as the Straight Spouse Network pamphlet.

4. Other Business:

Margie L. announced that the date for PFLAG to speak at Colby Sawyer College is October 8th. She will speak to Carol Perkins and again report to the Board and a decision will be made as to the number of speakers needed.

Lisa H. asked if Board Members can be sponsored to cover the fees involved in attending the dinner on the evening of the “Coming Out Day” Rally. During a discussion initiated by

Ruth S., it was decided that there were no (known) “bring back” benefits from this dinner, which was the basis of the decision to sponsor people going to the National PFLAG Conference in May 2000. Lisa withdrew her question.

The next PFLAG NH Board Meeting will be on Oct. 16. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Spink, Secretary