

# Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

October 16, 2001

## Board Meeting Minutes

The PFLAG NH Board of Directors met on Tuesday, October 16, 2001, at South Congregational Church in Concord, New Hampshire. In attendance were: Roberta Barry, Betty Batchelder, Lisa Hartley, Margie Lindsley, Duncan McInnes, John Monroe, Lisa Nachbaur, Carol Perkins, Gordon Sherman, Ruth Smith, Gayle Spelman, and Jeremy Winnick

John opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Paula Spink informed him via email that she would be absent. Jeremy, having foolishly announced seeking the Secretary position in another group, agreed to take the minutes.

### Items Discussed:

#### 1. Paperwork Review:

John distributed an updated PFLAG NH Directory. The board reviewed the document and made corrections. John also distributed the cover letter from Sheila Dion, PFLAG's new Administrative Assistant. See Admin/Finance report for details on the selection.

#### 2. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

The board reviewed the minutes for the September meeting. Ruth corrected the mention of forwarding of petitions to the State House, which has not happened. Ruth **moved** to accept the minutes as amended. Lisa H. seconded. Carried unanimously.

#### 3. Sub-Committee Reports:

##### Advocacy:

1. Freedom to Marry (FTM). Ruth reported that 5 of the 7 regional meetings have been held. Concord's has had the highest turnout so far, with 20 attendees. The meetings are providing both feedback and signatures for the petitions. Also, the office used by FTM may be closed, as the building has been sold.
2. Margie attempted to hold an advocacy meeting at Colby Sawyer College on October 8th, but faced conflicts with a judicial group in the same space, and had ultimately, no turnout.
3. John reminded everyone that the 4th Annual Children's Summit (NH CAN) will be held on October 23 in Manchester.

4. Jasper from the Dover support group contacted John concerning Diversity Day training for Americorp's staff and volunteers. John asserted that PFLAG would be willing to handle the GBLT portion of said training. However, Americorp is looking for a "one-liner", nothing with any depth. John made it clear that PFLAG could not handle "whole gamut" diversity training, and requested additional information.
5. The Commissioner of Schools attended the Coming Out Rally at the State House, with his wife and kids. Apparently, it was an enlightening experience, and he wants to meet with someone as a result.

##### Administration/Finance:

John reported that the committee met at Gayle's and conducted interviews with two very qualified people to replace Rebecca Larson as Administrative Assistant. Extended offer to Sheila Dion, who accepted. The transition is now in progress, with an unofficial start date of 15 October. First order of business will be to obtain a Post Office box for PFLAG in Winnisquam. John **moved** to approve the payment of said P.O. box. Lisa H. seconded. Passed unanimously.

##### Membership:

Tabled as John is still working on the Fall Membership Drive letter.

##### Communications:

1. Reminder of the newsletter deadline.
2. Margie indicated that Judy Putnam and Nancy Grant request their names and contact information be removed from the PFLAG website. John requested that the secondary HIV/AIDS support number (964-8192) be removed from the website. Jeremy took an action item to handle both requests.
3. Jeremy invited chapter heads to submit special event/guest speaker information for publication on the website.

### Nominations:

1. Betty indicated that this committee will be meeting soon.
2. Discussion about term limits and how soon they may affect current board members.
3. Also: Bylaws specify 3 board members serve on the committee; only 2 are on the committee so far.

### Education, Outreach & Program Development:

1. John reported that the Family Resource Connection at the NH State Library is seeking GLBT books, specifically reference and nonfiction.
- 2a. Roberta reported that she has focused a lot of attention on the follow-up letter to the letter initiated by GLSEN, distributed to school superintendents. Roberta wants to finalize the letter, by first contacting Claire at the NHCLU to get approval. Roberta provided highlights of her draft of the letter, which includes a page which the superintendent can return, thereby entitling him or her to a free copy of "Hatred in the Hallways".
- 2b. Roberta inquired about getting speaker training for the upcoming safe schools program. Ruth suggested a combining of training efforts, since Freedom to Marry is in the same situation.
- 2c. Roberta inquired about letter distribution logistics, including who should sign it. Roberta requested some computer expertise with regards to publication. She suggested that the Admin Assistant should be able to help with most of the details. Gordon offered \$50 towards production costs of the letter. Lisa N. **moved** to authorize Roberta to proceed with the follow-up letter for the safe schools project. Margie seconded. Passed unanimously.

### Bylaws:

Questions arose over financial oversight of Amy and Sheila, as no one could ascertain whether the Admin Assistant position was hourly or salary, nor where records of such items exist. Bylaws specify that rules can be drafted to handle employees. The bylaws committee should thus address issues of employee roles, responsibilities, and compensation. Roberta suggested that the

entire board take up the issue at the November board meeting. John agreed to add this to the agenda. Gordon requested that members give him specific inputs; he will bring an online version of the bylaws compiled with all comments input to him during the month. To allow more time at the meeting to discuss this matter, John suggested that chapter reports be emailed to him by November 21st, prior to the November 27th board meeting.

### Advisory Council:

A joint meeting between the council and the PFLAG board was originally scheduled for the January board meeting, with the Annual Meeting the following Saturday. John asked if the board still wishes to do this. Ruth suggested that the council has dwindling usefulness. Roberta recalled that these meetings are good for inspiration and sharing of ideas, but historically, there has been little follow-up. She suggested that PFLAG forgo the joint council meeting and instead hold a joint PFLAG/FTM meeting to focus on the training needs of both groups. She noted that the timeframe is ideal, as both groups will start having speaking commitments in the Spring. John suggests mailing a "Thanks for your help, please come to the Annual Meeting" message to the council.

### Other:

1. John told story of a person who got a DUI infraction, and was required to attend a course as part of the penalty. This person noted that some slides shown during the course equated homosexuality with drunk driving.
2. Amethyst House...Margie will talk to her husband about this.
3. GLAD Fundraiser will be held November 18, 2:30-5:30pm on Portsmouth Street in East Concord. Ruth was provided with this information because GLAD contacted FTM directly (FTM is now the statewide advocacy group for GLBT issues). Roberta suggested that someone from the board should represent PFLAG at the fundraiser, then agreed to go.

#### 4. Chapter Reports:

Straight Spouse - Duncan reported 2 new people. One was a woman who has been divorced for 10 years and is now dealing with her anger. The Family Pride Coalition has started fundraising, having recently achieved 501(c)3 status.

Seacoast - Betty reported a turnout of 20 or so at the meeting. This month featured a panel of 5 people on being out at work. Some participants were very out, some not out. The meeting was structured so that everyone in the room spoke first prior to the panel, so that the panel itself would not set the tone of the meeting.

GLSEN - Lisa N. reported that 80-100 people attended the Rally at the State House. There may have been more if not for many conflicts in the area. The dinner was attended by around 40 people and was well received, but took a financial beating. Next for GLSEN: Training and outreach. GLSEN is already preparing for the next prom, to be held in Concord this year, in April. They are considering a hall instead of a hotel. Lisa H. suggested that PFLAG chaperone the prom.

Keene - Roberta reported no new people at this month's meeting. SAU 29 Diversity Committee is meeting for safe and drug-free schools. Roberta believes that she'll be able to do some outreach for PFLAG this way. In closing, she noted that Cheshire County ranks last in nation for religious affiliation per capita. She thinks this might explain why so few new faces come to the monthly PFLAG meetings.

Plymouth - Carol said that her last scheduled meeting was September 11th. The church was hosting a service for the tragedy. Instead, Plymouth PFLAG joined FTM that evening.

Laconia - via email: Our October meeting focus was on the transgender experience. A video, "Transforming Families" was shown and a discussion on the effects of transsexualism on family, friends and the transgendered person followed. Common views of gender were explored and understanding gained into what leads a person to take this journey. We had 13 people in attendance with two people attending for the first time. Our Trans-Coordinator, Lou Hobbs facilitated the meeting.

Concord - Margie reported that Mark Noel from the New England Coalition for inclusive scouting, will speak to them at the October meeting. Also, she received an email from a guy who's probably looking for Rainbow Families. Jeremy took an action item to locate them on the web and install a link from the PFLAG website. Finally, Margie reported getting a call from a woman who just came out to her folks, and seeks information for her parents.

#### 5. Other Business:

The next PFLAG NH board meeting will be on Nov. 27. The fourth Tuesday of the month was chosen to eliminate the conflict with Thanksgiving. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeremy Winnick, Secretary-in-training