

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

March 19, 2002

Board Meeting Minutes

The PFLAG NH Board of Directors met on March 19, at South Congregational Church in Concord, New Hampshire. In attendance were John Monroe, BarbieAnn Rounds, Roberta Barry, Margie Lindsley, Carol Perkins, Gordon Sherman, Ruth Smith, Gayle Spelman, Jeremy Winnick, Cheryl Elliott, and Sheila Dion.

John opened the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Items Discussed:

1. Minutes of previous meetings: Gordon made a motion to accept the February Minutes. Margie seconded the motion. All approved, the motion carried.

2. Action Items:

Family Resource Connection:

The Board revisited the idea about collaborating with the Family Resource Connection in building a video library that would be available to all NH residents, to borrow through the mail, free of charge. Roberta is going to come up with a list of videos that the board would like Family Resource Connection to purchase with our donation (amount as yet undetermined). Board members were asked to email Roberta suggestions and purchasing information if available.

Recognition of Peg Gage: Tabled until next meeting.

Article honoring Betsey Janeway:

The last deadline for articles was missed. Ruth will submit an article for the next one.

NPR:

Ruth wanted to discuss topics to approach Laura Knoy with rather than just a request to do a piece on PFLAG. Some suggestions that were offered were "What is PFLAG?", covering current issues that could be linked to PFLAG, school issues and safe schools.

Equality Press:

Margie passed out an article she wrote about PFLAG and sent to the Equality Press for publication in their next issue.

Boston Pride 2002:

Margie and Carol will look into being Parade Marshals. John will check with Boston PFLAG to see if we can march with them rather than signing up (and paying the fee) for PFLAG NH, since we are not sure how many will be able to attend. Seacoast PFLAG will be at Market Square Days on that weekend (6/8/2002).

Narth Pamphlet:

BarbieAnn urged everyone to read the Narth pamphlet citing that "forewarned is forearmed". She also offered to send people a cleaner copy of the pamphlet than is available on the Detroit PFLAG website.

3. Subcommittee Reports

Advocacy: Ruth reported Leanne Tigert has agreed to do Speaker Training with the Speaker Bureau and Freedom To Marry folks on the first and third Mondays in May. There will be two joint sessions and a third individual session for each group.

Admin/Finance:

Johnson & Johnson stocks:

The question was raised about what to do with the Johnson & Johnson stocks given to PFLAG NH by the Reverend Frances Potter. It was reported that several people had advised that the stocks were good to keep and easy to sell, and that the stocks had already risen in value from \$55 per share to \$64 per share. Ruth made the motion to keep the stocks. Roberta seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Position:

John reported on the cost of Checkmate Bookkeeping Services. Everyone agreed that the cost seemed high. John made the motion to hire the interim treasurer, Cheryl Elliott. Lisa Hartley seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Cheryl reported that Carol delivered what is believed to be the last of the treasurer's records from Aimee and she is in the process of reconciling the bank statements from the prior two years. Some information is still missing and had

to be requested from the bank. While some discrepancies were noted in the records, she is waiting for additional bank information before completing the audit. The current balance in the checking account is \$929.01. Due to some anticipated upcoming expenses, another transfer from the Fidelity account will be needed to cover those expenses.

The question was raised about where the money in the Fidelity account came from and what is its intended purpose? John said he would research this item.

Cheryl reminded everyone that the tax filing is due May 15 and needed all chapter finance reports by the next board meeting.

Membership:

Sheila reported that only 2 membership renewals had been received since the last board meeting, for a total of 91 paid members for 2002. She also reported that she had added a new membership tier called "Temporary Membership". All new people requesting to be added to the mailing list for the newsletter will be recorded as a temporary member with a 6-month expiration date, allowing them to receive 3 newsletters. Each newsletter cycle a report will be run of all temporary memberships set to expire that month, and a letter will be sent to them alerting them that their temporary membership is expiring and requesting them to join. The letter will also explain that if they are financially unable to join, their membership can be extended another 6 months.

Communications:

Website: John asked if chapters could make their own changes to the website. Jeremy said they could copy the code from the site, make the changes, and email them back to him to upload to the server. Also, Jeremy and John said they would look into finding a way to get the old website removed from the internet or at least divert people to the new site.

Newsletter: Sheila reported the last newsletter was sent out with "Address Service Requested". All newsletters that were undeliverable were returned to the PO box. Normally they are just thrown away by the post office. To date, 55 newsletters have been returned as undeliverable and those names were deleted from the database. Also, 20 forwarding addresses have been

received and the database has been updated to reflect those changes.

The deadline for the next newsletter is April 20th.

Education & Outreach Committee:

Roberta has been in contact with Alice Nye, of the Family Resource Connection/Best Schools Resource Center and has discussed offering 20 "Hatred in the Hallways" books to Best Schools Initiative Teams through the Best Schools newsletter. They missed the last newsletter but Alice will write an article for the next one with input from Roberta. They also discussed offering 20 books to the public libraries through the Family Resource Connection.

Bow High School:

Bow High School teacher, Tamara Skye and two students from the Bow High School Peace and Justice group met with the Board during the "brown bag supper" hour. They talked about their experiences with homophobia at Bow High School and wondered if the Board had suggestions for activities for their group of about 20 students. They also requested informational handouts for an information table at their "Day of Solidarity", being held on the Day of Silence, which was opposed by school officials.

John said he is in the process of revising the "Growing up Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual" series pamphlets to provide to the group and to have on hand for other informational purposes. He also requested that Lisa Hartley and BarbieAnn Rounds get together and create a "Growing up Transgender" pamphlet.

Gordon suggested that the group use a display cabinet for displays of several different minority issues, making it less likely that displays of GLBT issues will be opposed.

Roberta suggested a pilot project of working with Bow High School to develop a long term "Safe Schools Project Plan," including training and awareness and curriculum development. She also suggested doing regional training in the future.

4. Other items discussed:

GLSEN: Lisa Nachbaur reported that GLSEN may disband after the Diversity Prom, but would likely continue to do the Prom each year. This year's prom will be held April 13th from 7-12 pm and reminded the board of the need for

chaperones. All interested should attend a meeting on March 23rd, at 4:00 pm at Panera Bread.

PFLAG NH Brochure Update:

Board members were requested to look over the current PFLAG NH brochure for revisions, including the reading list on the back. Lisa Hartley and BarbieAnn were requested to submit a paragraph on Transgender issues to be added to the brochure. The board also agreed that the list of contact people be omitted, but that the chapter meeting information be retained since they don't change that often.

Chapter Reports:

Lisa made a motion to move Chapter Reports to an earlier spot on the agenda and Gordon seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

Guests:

Ruth made a motion to keep guests attending the brown bag supper to the allotted 6:00 - 6:30 time frame to avoid extra long meetings. Gordon seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

Advertising: Margie made a motion to purchase a ¼ page ad in the Gay Men's Chorus Program for their next concert. Gordon seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

Gordon pointed out that other PFLAG organizations sell advertising space (business card size) in their newsletters and requested that a discussion regarding newsletter ad sales be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

5. Chapter Reports:

Keene:

Keene PFLAG chapter meets on the first Tuesday at St. James church. We haven't sponsored any speakers or program this winter. Our attendance is low. Some of our core attendees have been attending the Film series, sponsored by Dr. Stephen Clark at Keene State on Wednesday evenings. At the beginning of each film, an organization that deals with LGBT issues has an opportunity to present information. Jean and I will be presenting for PFLAG for the Mar. 27th film.

Concord:

13 people attended, three new people and another returning from last year. Two of the new people were moms of gay people and a third had lost her partner of 13 years in January and needed some

support. Ideas exchanged for more support in the grieving process. GLBT resources were discussed and web sites, networking, etc. Equality Press's new website and new publications were introduced. BarbieAnn updated Trans support in the Upper Valley and the decision in the Hanover church to ask the Boy Scouts to leave. Kelly updated us on how her "new" daughter is doing after surgery. She believes surgery was too soon but is taking it one day at a time. Support was given for her. Two of the new people stated they saw our ad for programs so we discussed having an ad before each program. Will bring it up at the Core Meeting in May.

Announcements: Diversity prom to be held April 13. Chaperone meeting next Saturday 3/23 at Panera Bakery - 4pm. Information on study done by Assistant Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at the University of FL and need for PFLAG input was passed out. Margie shared the study her family is participating in, helping a family therapist who is working on her doctorate gather information on one family with a gay member and the coming out process, and each members feelings and process of acceptance. This study is for therapists and students for resources, as there is not a lot of information from the standpoints of all members of one family on having a gay family member.

Program followed by Paul Belyea – "Gay Music – Celebration, Joy & Love". Paul shared several songs with us and gave background on the artists. It was very moving and a peaceful ending to our meeting. We'd like to incorporate more music in future meetings. The program for next month will be "*Moving Out From the Shadow of Shame*", by Jim Paradis, D. Min. There will be another ad the Thursday before our meeting on 4/21

Speaker Bureau News:

SEE ADVOCACY

Lakes Region:

Twenty-four people were in attendance at our last meeting. Our speaker for the evening was Carol Pierce who serves on the Laconia Human Relations Committee. There was active group participation in the discussion following her presentation. We had good news coverage announcing this event and several new people came from various communities around the Lake area for this meeting.

Upper Valley:

In March we provided support for a family dealing with the coming out of an adult son. It was interesting that homophobic jokes and stories that had previously been acceptable were suddenly not so. As with other chapters we continue to notice the small numbers of people coming to PFLAG meetings. We considered taking out a paid ad in the Valley News along with the notice put in the support groups section. No decision was reached. Several possibilities for programs were brought up including a straight spouse presentation, discussion by gay parents and a discussion of the book Hatred In the Hallways. Again no decision was reached.

Seacoast: John reported that Heather Driscoll resigned as the representative to the Board of the Seacoast chapter. John will now represent the Seacoast.

The Seacoast Chapter's March meeting was attended by about 15 people. The support meeting part of the evening was interesting as there was no organized Straight Spouse Support (SSN) group that night, so Duncan was able to meet with the PFLAG group and it was just as well that he

did. We had a couple of new people attend, one of whom was looking for help to support her ex-husband, who has recently come out.

The program for the evening was "Advocacy Over the Internet". Lead by Diane, this discussion focused on how people can anonymously help groups that keep track of what various publications are saying (or how they are slanting) coverage of GLBT stories. Diane acts as a "media watchdog" on several seacoast area newspapers and keeps her eyes open for other interesting stories on the Internet.

No. Country:

Our group is participating in a diversity day program at the WMRHS [local high school] tomorrow --- having a table of info and doing a series of 4 workshops.

6. Other Business:

The next board meeting will be April 16, 2002, at the South Congregational Church in Concord.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dion
Administrative Assistant