

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

May 21, 2002

Board Meeting Minutes

The PFLAG NH Board of Directors met on May 21, 2002, at South Congregational Church in Concord, New Hampshire. In attendance were: John Monroe, Gayle Spelman, Paula Spink, BarbieAnn Rounds, Jeremy Winnick, Lisa Hartley, Margie Lindsley, Lisa Nachbaur, Ruth Smith, Carol Perkins, Roberta Barry, Duncan McInnes, Cheryl Elliott, and Sheila Dion.

John opened the meeting at: 6:30 pm.

Items Discussed:

1. Minutes of previous meetings: Margie pointed out an error in the April minutes regarding the Speaker Bureau report. Sheila promised to correct them. Lisa made a motion to accept the April Minutes. BarbieAnn seconded the motion. All approved, the motion carried.
2. Subcommittee Reports

Advocacy:

Nothing new to report legislatively.

Admin/Finance:

Treasurer's Report:

Cheryl distributed the first quarter financial report showing total revenue of \$9765.00 (including an \$8000 transfer from the fidelity account) and expenses of \$6158.46. She pointed out that the major expense was in wages (\$2859.46). Cheryl also distributed a comparison of finances between the first quarter of last year and the first quarter of this year. The biggest difference was in wages (\$769.09 in 2001 and 2,859.46 in 2002).

Cheryl also reported that the Charitable Trust was never filed for 2000 or 2001 and that she would need financial reports from each chapter covering those years.

A discussion ensued about the need for fundraising and grant writing. John reported that he emailed Betsy Janeway for help with grant writing and it was suggested that chapters apply for mini grants for "*Hatred in the Hallways*".

Fundraising Letter:

The fundraising letter is ready and will go out on Friday, June 24th.

Membership:

Sheila reported that she had completed 3 chapter roster reconciliations and was still waiting for the rosters of the remaining 4 chapters. Sheila also reported that current memberships were up to 95 for 2002 thus far.

Database:

Sheila reported that 76 names had been purged from the database due to the number of newsletters that were returned as undeliverable, using the address service requested with the last newsletter mailing. Also, all members who were not current up to 2001 have been marked inactive for the newsletter but will still receive the membership drive letter and the fundraising letter. Currently the newsletter is mailed to 367 people, 231 of which are complimentary memberships and 17 temporary memberships.

Communications:

Newsletter:

It was suggested that David Pendleton, editor of the PFLAG NH newsletter be invited to the retreat in August.

Website:

Jeremy handed out a list of email aliases that he has created for each board member. This will allow a certain amount of privacy when advertising email addresses, especially from the website. Jeremy cautioned that although a person emailing an alias email address will not know the actual address, if the email is replied to, the actual personal address will appear in the "From" line.

Education & Outreach Committee:

Roberta reported that not many new people have taken "*Hatred in the Hallways*" recently. She has also attempted to contact Heather Thalheimer at the Parent Information Center to discuss ways to collaborate with the Safe Schools Project.

Margie reported that although she had written and submitted an article about PFLAG to the Equality

Press, it wasn't printed in the new edition and hoped it would appear in the next one. It was suggested that PFLAG use the Equality Press as a resource for contacting people who might be interested in helping with "*Hatred in the Hallways*", and we should also consider taking out an ad.

Margie informed the group about an upcoming workshop at NEC entitled "*Sticks & Stones*", concerning harassment in the schools. She will get more information for the next meeting.

Margie also reported that she had mailed the Safe Schools Award Proposal to National.

John reported that the NH Developmental Disabilities Council received \$20,000 to sponsor a conference on School Environment.

3. **Other items discussed:**

Recognition of Peg:

It was decided that since Peg Gage has decided to run again as Regional Director that formal recognition for her work with PFLAG would not be necessary. Paula suggested writing her a thank you letter on behalf of the Board and agreed to write the letter.

Summer Retreat:

July 26 was decided on as the summer retreat date to be held at Paula Spink's house. The time has not been decided yet. Some board members expressed a desire to meet early.

Some suggested topics for the retreat included how to beef up the speaker bureau and working with GLSEN using the "lunchbox". Other suggestions for topics to be discussed should be emailed to John before the next board meeting.

PR:

Ruth spoke with Mary Krueger from NPR about doing a piece on PFLAG. Mary had considered doing a piece on Gay Teens and School Issues and is looking for someone with opposing views such as a school administrator, teacher or student, who could talk about why they feel gay issues shouldn't be in schools. The Board discussed finding someone with opposing views that wouldn't be too conservative or harmful to the cause. Roberta said that she was meeting with a peer mediation group and will check around. Other suggestions for people who might speak for the GLBT cause were Tamara Skye, from Bow High

School and Bill Preble, NEC professor who's doing a project on school climate.

Advertising:

Sheila did a cost analysis of taking advertisements in the newsletter. She explained that the current newsletter is 6 pages, (1 full page plus an insert), at a cost of .23 cents per newsletter. If advertising were added, we'd have to go to an 8-page newsletter, at a cost of .31 cents per newsletter. This would amount to an additional cost of \$45 per mailing and possibly extra postage. Additionally, if we took 10 business card sized ads per issue (filling one page), at \$50 per year, the income would amount to \$500 a year with an expense of \$270 per year, amounting to a maximum \$230 profit, and leaving an extra page to fill.

Sheila also pointed out that an 8-page newsletter is difficult for the printing machines to fold. Suggestions and comments from the Board included that the newsletter was too packed as it is and the extra page would alleviate that; we could look into using a lighter paper; we could use single sheets and have them stapled; we could check around for a less expensive printer; and an article should be written for the newsletter alerting members to the fact that we are considering changing our newsletter format by accepting advertisements and asking for feedback. Also, members should be asked if they would be interested in advertising in the newsletter.

Brochures:

Revision of the brochures were discussed. Ruth pointed out that the line in the Growing up Lesbian brochure that says "*Lesbians are teachers, doctors..... You name it, we do it*", should be changed.

Videos for FRC:

John reported that the Seacoast chapter is making copies of all their videos and donating the originals to the Family Resource Connection.

Boston Pride March:

Margie reminded everyone of the upcoming Pride march in Boston and suggested carpooling.

Reactions to new PFLAG National Director:

None

Youth Suicide Prevention Advisory:

Roberta Barry and Sandy Conley will replace Betsy Janeway on the advisory board.

Nashua PFLAG Chapter:

It was reported that a mother of a 17 year old gay son in Amherst expressed interest in starting a chapter in Nashua and a GSA at Souhegan High School.

NH CAN 2003 workshops:

John reported that there will be two workshops that PFLAG NH should be involved with: Safety & Protection and a campaign on Child Abuse and the Catholic Church Scandal.

4. Chapter Reports:

Keene:

Only the core couples showed up at the May meeting. We were in agreement that much more advertising needs to be done about our chapter and we need to have programs which will encourage attendance. Our plans are to initiate some work in those areas. May 31st, Jean Bleyle and Roberta Barry will be presenting at a workshop in Concord for school peer mediation leaders.

Concord:

Nine people attended our meeting. No new people.

There was a discussion by one mother about her daughter and partner's upcoming commitment ceremony. Her sister is very religious but not accepting of gay people, but loves her niece. It takes time and some folks may never understand. Mom is sending a letter to the sister with some handouts but wanted some input from our group.

Another person returning from last month was able to discuss some of his concerns as to struggling with trans issues. Barbie, Lisa and Kellie were very helpful as the rest of the group in giving this person time to express his feelings. Lisa will email and follow up as in the past with this person.

Paul updated us on the process his church in making in becoming open and affirming.

Catholic Church issues were discussed and how gay folks will probably be purged from the church in light of the child abuse problems that have surfaced in the last few months. (The hierarchy of the Catholic Church, their view on homosexuals, and lack of wanting to address the real problems for the abuse of children)

Barbie discussed the Marriage Amendment and the chance of it passing.

Announcements: Core Meeting followed.

Sue explained the upcoming "Walk With The One You Love" in Portsmouth 6/16/02.

Unfortunately it's the same date as our next support meeting.

Margie gave details for Boston Pride March on 6/8/02. Several folks from our New Hampshire chapters have been invited to join Boston PFLAG for the March. Margie suggested anyone interested emailing her, as the final logistics of transportation have not been worked out. There was also a group discussion of the history of New Hampshire's marches and the need for another one.

Speaker Bureau News:

Youth Speaker- Michael Cassavaugh and Les Norman returned to Laconia High School for a presentation in late May. The "*Hatred...*" book was given to them.

May 19 before Concord support meeting Margie gave a "*Hatred...*" book to a parent of GLBT young adult. The parent is a staff member at St. Paul's School. Parent could not attend meeting that day but has been networking and explaining Speaker Bureau and Safe Schools program.

Lisa Hartley spoke again at Interlakes High School.

Sue Hemingway contacted Margie from the Capital Region Health Care program through our PFLAG hot line. She coordinates the teen clinic Called "Teen Care"(a health facility for teens ages 11-21) adjacent to the Concord Hospital where area high school students volunteer their time during the year. Margie and Michael Cassavaugh will give a presentation on June 5th at their meeting.

Ruth reported that she had attended the Speaker Bureau Training with a mix of PFLAG and FTM people. She wondered if PFLAG wanted more trainings. Ruth also talked about role playing techniques and suggested that we practice them at the retreat.

Lakes Region:

Paula reported that there were only 3 people at the last meeting, so they didn't have a meeting. She also reported that they will have a table at the

Laconia Human Relations Committee Diversity Day in October.

Upper Valley:

The Upper Valley PFLAG meeting took place Monday May 13th in Auditorium A of the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. Four individuals were present. A general discussion took place around several topics including the continuing problems in the Catholic Church. One question address involved the discomfort one person had at a business related meeting involving her spouse. Several of the persons present made homophobic remarks and she didn't know how to respond since they didn't know her son was gay and bringing the matter up would put her spouse on the spot. No final resolution was reached.

Seacoast:

About 15 people attended the Seacoast Chapter's May meeting was attended. The focus of the support part of the meeting was a "new" Mom, who had contacted our HelpLine although she lives in southern Maine. The group were very supportive in attempting to alleviate her fears for her teenage son and in offering on-going support. The program for the evening was Quakerism and fully held the group's attention. A Chapter member and two friends from the Dover Friends' Meeting House presented the program. The program consisted of a description of a Quaker service ("meeting"), a historical summary of Quakerism with special emphasis on their approach to acceptance of same-sex marriage. The Chapter member also told her story, for the first time.

Plymouth:

Carol reported that there were 3 attendees at the meeting including one mother and two gay men. She also reported that she had placed an ad in the newspaper and one in the church bulletin, and was considering doing a program.

GLSEN:

Lisa reported that GLSEN will remain in existence for at least one more year, but will focus on the diversity prom. She also reported that another group might be forming. John asked if GLSEN could handle the rally at the State House. Lisa said they were going to let the new group do it. Lisa also reported that they have two new co-chairs and had considered starting a new group. They decided that it would be too expensive. Lisa said that GLSEN would like to donate their "Lunchbox" to PFLAG, and asked if GLSEN

dissolves, would PFLAG NH consider sponsoring the prom? John said it wasn't out of the question but would have to do some investigating before giving an answer.

Straight Spouse:

Duncan reported that 3 people attended the meeting, including a woman with 3 young children who was struggling to come to terms with her husband coming out. He also reported that he had received a phone call from a very distraught woman whose husband had recently come out to her. She didn't leave her name or phone number and Duncan hopes she contacts him again when she is ready.

5. Other Business:

It was requested that PR be put on the agenda for the next board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

The next board meeting will be June 18, 2002, at the South Congregational Church in Concord.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dion
Administrative Assistant

CORRECTION ADDENDUM
Board Meeting Minutes

The following is a correction addendum to the May 21, 2002 minutes.

Admin/Finance:

Fundraising Letter:

The fundraising letter is ready and will go out on Friday, May 24th, not June 24th as written in the original minutes.

Apologetically submitted,

Sheila Dion
Administrative Assistant