

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

January 21, 2003
Board Meeting Minutes

The PFLAG NH Board of Directors met on January 21, 2003, at South Congregational Church in Concord, New Hampshire.

In attendance were: Gayle, Margie, Roberta, Lisa H., Ruth, Duncan, Jeremy, BarbieAnn, Cheryl and Sheila.

The meeting opened at: 6:30 pm.

Items Discussed:

1. Minutes from previous meeting: It was noted that in the previous minutes, two people who were listed as present should not have been listed (John Barry and Cy Sherman). Also, Lisa Hartley did not attend as was reported. The minutes were accepted as amended.
2. Subcommittee Reports

Admin/Finance:

Cheryl reported that the checking account balance is \$8,296.00, and that a year-end financial report would be ready by the annual meeting. Duncan made a motion to accept the financial report and to have the finance committee review the books at the end of the fiscal year. Ruth seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

Outcome: Margie, Carol and Duncan will be responsible for reviewing the financial records at the end of the fiscal year.

Membership:

Sheila reported that she has received 110 paid memberships to date. She handed out year-end membership reports for 2002, along with remaining dues owed to chapters for 2002.

Membership Dues Redistribution: The Board voted unanimously to change the dues structure on Family/Partnership memberships only, to the following split: National will receive \$10; State Council will receive \$10; and the Chapter will receive \$15.

Communications:

Newsletter/Website:

A motion was made by Lisa Hartley, and seconded by Margie, to change to a quarterly newsletter mailed out to membership and other

organizations currently receiving the newsletter. An online version will be posted on the website every 6-8 weeks. Members will have the option to receive a quarterly hard copy, or to receive an alert via email, letting them know when a new version is posted to the website.

Action Item: Jeremy will explore the possibility of using an e-mail blast to alert members about the newsletter on the website.

Action Item: Jeremy will write an article for the newsletter about the newsletter changes and options.

Advocacy:

Ruth reported on HB553, relative to civil unions contracted outside of NH. Action Alert flyers were sent out to the PFLAG membership with the newsletter. Ruth asked for volunteers to speak at the hearing.

Action Item: Gayle will ask Paula Spink if she'd like to speak.

Ruth also announced that Governor Wentworth School is now offering domestic partnership benefits.

3. **Other items discussed:**

Annual Meeting:

The issue of write-in candidates was discussed. The general consensus of the Board was that accepting nominations for write-in candidates was not a good idea.

Action Items: Carol will bring paper goods and soda. Lisa will buy frames for the award certificates for the bulk mailing volunteers. Sheila will include chapter reports in the annual report. Sheila will have 30 annual reports printed. Sheila will check the amended by-laws to see what they say about write-in candidates. Ruth will create New Board Member Packets. Sheila will email Ruth the amended by-laws. Roberta will ask Peg to speak at the Annual Meeting.

Lisa made a motion to wait until the next regularly scheduled board meeting after the annual meeting to elect the board leadership. Duncan seconded. All approved, the motion carried.

Grants/Grantwriting:

Roberta went over the grant proposal she is writing for the Safe Schools Project, to the Gill Foundation. The money will be used to create 100 resource manuals to be used by speakers. The manual will be divided up by type of audience. The cost of a photocopier was also included. BarbieAnn gave Roberta a resource manual that GLEARN uses and offered to ask the author of the manual to train people to use the manual. Roberta suggested doing another curriculum review at the summer retreat. She also suggested using in-kind donations of volunteer time.

Action Item: Ruth will find what the government standards are on volunteer time.

Comments on the grant proposal included:

- List collaborations
- Add "I" for Inter-sex to GLBTQ
- Distribute the manual to the Board, Speakers' Bureau, Chapters and volunteers.
- Expand follow-up contacts.

Margie handed out information on the Emerson grant, due 3/31/03.

Hatred in the Hallways Donation: Duncan presented the Board with a \$100 donation for "Hatred in the Hallways" books, from the Seacoast chapter.

Thank you, Seacoast!

Gay Info Line: Sheila reported that Jim Bretz, coordinator of the Gay Info Line, has contacted her regarding PFLAG NH taking over the Gay Info Line. He is no longer able to manage it, due to illness. Sheila has contacted Mandy Vernalia about the specifics. Mandy will keep up the database and continue to pay for the phone line, if PFLAG NH will answer calls and collect the messages. The phone number will remain the same, but will be forwarded to the PFLAG HelpLine. Mandy says that they receive about 10 calls per week.

Action Item: Sheila will look into the impact on the HelpLine phone bill, in terms of extra cost.

4. Chapter Reports:

Plymouth

Plymouth PFLAG met last night with two mothers and 2 new visitors. (Thanks to Sheila and Cheryl -their "Moms") The two hour meeting was filled with conversation and sharing. Great meeting.

Keene

Keene Chapter met in January with only 5 present. It was a regular support meeting. Just introductions, tell our stories, and have discussion. Looking forward to a better attended Feb. meeting.

Seacoast

No Chapter Report Submitted.

Concord

Twenty one (21) people attended our last meeting!! (One new couple who came with the guest speakers, one from Seacoast Chapter, two people returned who attended last month and brought new people with them). Another attendee returned with books; she had attended last summer, because we had a program and an ad in the Concord Monitor. I'm sure this is part of the reason we had such a good turn out.

There was a discussion on churches- some being Open and Affirming others not. Gordon and Cy reported their church, after much time and work, is celebrating next Sunday being Open and Affirming! A new couple that joined us today was looking for a welcoming church and found it at Gordon's church. Sue also discussed work she had done last summer with her church.

Discussion on how helpful it is for people unfamiliar with the gay world to know a gay person. Then slowly some of the prejudice leaves and people relate to the person not perceived ideas.

A high school student who attended with her neighbor spoke of her problems at her private high school. How hard it was "being out" and time missed from school due to harassment. We gave her encouragement and spoke of finding a safe person at school, ideas on GSA's and what work PFLAG was doing in schools. Margie gave her a brochure on an upcoming workshop for local high school students wanting to start GSA's in their schools. Kellie spoke of the Outright groups- Concord, Manchester and Nashua, and encouraged

the student to attend a meeting. Kellie, as a facilitator, is a minority at the meetings.

One of our returning attendees from last month, who is just coming out, brought her husband with her. He is very accepting of his wife and will continue to be. They spoke of separating, problems of their jobs working at the same place –what to tell workers and not having told their teen-age children yet. We again gave support and ideas...One step at a time.

A returning member spoke of the dynamics with her gay “23 year old” living at home. Mom felt like she never said the right thing. We encouraged her that some of this was due to his coming out, and was still in process, and the normal give and take relationship between mother and son.

Announcements:

Annual Meeting 2/1/03 – Margie and Gordon explain and invited all to attend. New Trans Brochure, Legislative alert from Freedom to Marry, Concord Outright Brochure, Linda discussed 2/22/03 Women’s Expo at Center of NH. PFLAG and Freedom the Marry will possibly have a table. Margie spoke of Youth Diversity Conference on 1/31/03-2/1/03, hosted and organized by New Hampshire Youth and the American Friends Service Committee. Next months program by Cy and Gordon Sherman “Don’t Give Up on The Church”.

A program followed the meeting: Empowerment – with Sue Redkey and Heather Driscoll from our Seacoast Chapter. Sue spoke from the point of view as an ally and explained her work in teaching empowerment classes (re-framing). How you can create the reality you want. Beliefs effect experience. She gave us examples of how to re-frame or change a situation, such as the weather. Heather spoke of her struggles over the years of not being out and gender vs. lesbian issues. She spoke of gender issues in the workplace, etc. Hers was a story of empowerment and how now being out and free to be the person she is. It was a very powerful program ending a very dynamic meeting.

Speaker Bureau:

Upcoming panels and engagements:

JANUARY 2003

1/28/03- Casey Family Services- Carol Perkins (Plymouth chapter) and Kit (George) Carter (North Country chapter) will speak to foster parents and Casey staff telling their stories and answering questions. (First time for PFLAG)

1/31/03 - 2/1/03 – Youth Diversity Conference 2003 (Unitarian Universalist Church, Manchester) We will have an information table and sign up for “ Hatred In The Hallways”. Kellie Rheault (Concord Chapter) may man table. Bow, Manchester and Concord High School students are some of the schools attending. Organized by N.H. Youth and hosted by American Friends Service Committee’s Youth Program. (First time conference)

FEBRUARY 2003

2/19/03- Teen Care- (Concord Hospital) coordinated though Capital Region Health Care. Area high school students volunteer their time at this health clinic for their peers. Margie Lindsley and Gordon Sherman (Concord Chapter) will tell their stories and answer questions. (PFLAG has done this for several years)

MARCH 2003

3/13/03- Kearsarge High School – 2nd Annual Awareness Day (3 Workshops for students and staff) 2 Panels- One with John Liston, Les Norman (Concord Chapter) and possibly Heather Driscoll (Seacoast Chapter) telling their stories. Another panel- Lisa Hartley and Margie Lindsley (Concord Chapter) briefly telling stories then group training & tools for recognizing harassment and bullying and how to turn negative behaviors into a learning experience. (This will be the first training workshop we’ve done there! Our second panel on stories)

North Country:

No Chapter Report Submitted.

Laconia/Lakes Region

Five people attended the meeting. There was some discussion on arranging for Freedom to Marry representative to come and speak at a future meeting.

Upper Valley:

The January meeting of the Upper Valley Chapter of PFLAG was attended by four people and involved general discussion. The February meeting of Upper Valley PFLAG is on Feb 10, 2003 at DHMC, 7-9 PM. Note that the meeting will be in the Fuller Board Room which is just across the hall from our usual meeting place in Auditorium A. Open agenda. Bring ideas for 2003

5. Other Business:

The next board meeting will be February 18, 2003, at the South Congregational Church, in Concord.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dion
Administrative Assistant