

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

324 Havenwood Heights, Concord, NH

20 January 2004

Call to Order

Roberta called the meeting to order at 18:36.

Attending: Roberta Barry, Carol Perkins, Margie Lindsley, Duncan McInnes, Sheila Dion, Cheryl Elliott, Lisa Hartley, Gordon Sherman, Gayle Spelman, Jeremy Winnick

Guests: Marianne Storer (Seacoast chapter), Diane King (Keene chapter)

Roberta introduced and welcomed the guests. She noted that Gordon's house on Havenwood Heights would be our regular meeting place, to eliminate the rent cost from the budget. She also noted that the annual meeting would be held at the Havenwood Auditorium. Finally, she added that Gordon would be the official timekeeper at meetings so that the meeting stayed on course through the agenda.

Minutes of Prior Meetings

Gordon **moved** to accept the minutes of the 12/16 meeting as written. Duncan seconded. Passed unanimously.

Business

Treasury/Membership

Cheryl reported that she has not yet received a bank statement; that it will come in this week. She reported that \$1500 in membership dues has been recently deposited. Cheryl asked for a financial report for calendar year 2003 from each chapter.

Sheila reported that so far for membership year 2004, \$2715 in membership dues has been received from 102 members, plus \$1115 in donations. Sheila did not know how many of these are new members. She provided a membership comparison for the whole of 2002 and 2003, indicating that membership is on track to being much higher than in either year.

Advocacy

Sheila described SB427, the latest anti-Civil Union bill. NH Freedom To Marry believes this bill will pass. Sheila reminded everyone of the NHFTM event on 1/29.

Nominations Committee

Gordon reminded everyone that the annual meeting will be on February 7 at the Havenwood Auditorium.

Gordon distributed the nominations committee report and January e-newsletter. He highlighted the new names on ballot, Louis Hobbs and Marianne Storer. He invited Diane King to provide a bio paragraph for her inclusion on the ballot too.

Gordon noted that the final ballot would not be limited to the current slate. Sheila pointed out, however, that write-ins during the election must be present at the annual meeting to be elected.

Roberta reminded everyone that the election of officers would immediately follow the annual meeting (very brief board meeting). Also, that the annual meeting would be a potluck, but that the Auditorium had no kitchen facilities. She noted that there would be a surprise program at the meeting.

Roberta provided an oral agenda for the meeting: Lunch, 30-minute program, orally-presented reports. Sheila noted that several of the needed inputs for her Annual Meeting Report are still missing.

Reapportionment of Tasks

Sheila reported that she needs to redistribute her administrative work as soon as possible. She noted that Jeremy would now be handling the monthly minutes, that Gordon would coordinate the newsletter mailing, and that she would keep the membership database. However, she still needs someone to take over the Speaker Bureau database.

Helpline

Sheila noted that an average of 75 calls per month come in. We're allowed 100 calls on the 800-number before we're charged a higher rate. 60 of these calls are hang-ups, but they count toward the 100-call limit. This may decrease since the Gay Info Line number will be disconnected soon, so calls will no longer be redirected to PFLAG. However, the Gay Info Line info as listed on Websites will still show PFLAG's number.

Margie relayed a story of a Christmas Day caller who continuously called throughout the day. Sheila suggested that we remind people that we're not a crisis line or hotline. We should not be helping people who are searching for therapy since we are not trained counselors. The board agreed to continue the helpline for now.

Sheila recommended that we find a home where we can move the helpline, where someone is at home during the day. Lisa recommended that we have a scheduled "live" time during which we promise to be available to answer the call.

May Advisory Meeting

Roberta reported that the Advisory meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20, at the Havenwood Auditorium. Carol will coordinate this meeting. Roberta hopes to have a powerful presence of people at this meeting, including Bruce (formerly of the NH Bisexuals group) and a surprise or two as well. Gordon reminded

everyone that more people at the advisory meeting could mean less work for board members.

Sheila suggested sending a questionnaire to all advisors, asking for GLBTQ issues, and suggestions as to what PFLAG-NH should be focusing on. The responses could be used to structure the discussion at the meeting. Further details of this will be handled by the committee.

Speaker Bureau

Margie reminded everyone of the importance of filling out the online form for each completed speaking engagement. This data is a crucial ingredient for getting grants. She noted that her listing of speaker engagements is incomplete, and made suggestions for improving the form to include separate fields for multiple speakers, so that each speaker can supply his or her own mileage. Sheila offered to redesign the form.

Margie listed some of the recent speaking engagements. Casey Family Services, Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the Worcester Library Conference, and engagements coming up at a library workshop in Shrewsbury, a Women's Expo, and the Rainbow Series Workshops in Manchester. She noted that she's overwhelmed with requests for speaking engagements.

Margie wants to keep track of events where PFLAG-NH has a presence where it can disseminate information (via a booth or table), yet where no actual speaking engagement takes place. Sheila asked whether Margie might be able to get help from someone in her chapter to learn the Speaker Bureau database; then she could collect any data she likes and have someone assist with entering the data.

Newsletter

Sheila asked to be informed if anyone is not getting the e-newsletter notices. She also asked whether we should stop mailing paper newsletters to those who receive their newsletter electronically. Jeremy suggested that we offer people the opportunity to opt out of the paper edition. Board consensus: Default to everyone receiving the print edition.

Lisa asked for an updated board listing. Sheila reminded her that the listing will be updated after the annual meeting.

Website

Jeremy reported that the on-line donation feature has not yet been implemented. He promised to have this done by February. Duncan reported that the Straight Spouse Network Website has a similar feature and that it works very well.

Curriculum Materials

Roberta provided status on this, and provided Jeremy with the materials to be scanned. Jeremy reported that there may be OCR software that can scan the image and actually convert it to text, which would make managing the files easier. He agreed to look into this.

Media & Political Watch

Roberta distributed an article from *The Advocate* about General Wesley Clark as an FYI. She reminded everyone that PFLAG-NH cannot endorse a political party or candidate.

Bylaws Amendment

Roberta reported that there were 4 out of 6 meetings in 2003 in which there was no quorum. Gordon suggested that we could in future hold conference calls with 2 absent people to achieve quorum.

Roberta read bylaws Article V Section 1 and the proposed amendment. She noted that the change requires all chapters to provide a representative who can attend 50% of board meetings during their term (which can be honored via conference call). If the chapter cannot provide this, the chapter must provide a representative to be the recipient of all communications and to be the provider of chapter reports. This rep will not be a voting member on the state board. The board agreed that it did not want to alienate anyone who has a long ride. Sheila noted that we cannot vote on a bylaws amendment until the amendment has been read by everyone.

Discussion on the meaning of quorum. Lisa suggested that this could be discussed at the annual meeting. Sheila noted that the problem is that the bylaws do not specify what we should do if we do not have chapter representation.

Lisa **moved** that Lisa and Gordon prepare a proposal to be presented at the annual meeting. Gordon seconded. Passed unanimously.

Announcements

Margie noted that the Concord Monitor is willing to print commitment ceremony announcements. Diane added that the Keene Sentinel is already doing this too.

Chapter Reports

Roberta requested that all chapter reports be written ahead of time. Sheila explained that chapter reports are added to the minutes in arrears, due to the fact that not all chapters have held their meeting at the time that the board meeting occurs. Roberta asked that chapter heads deliver oral reports this month.

Concord

Margie reported that a new couple has been attending regularly and actively participating for the past 3 months. She noted that they were married as man and woman, and now are both women. One wants to join the Speaker Bureau.

Margie reported that the chapter funds are low and that something may need to be done to pay church rent. However, someone did give a generous donation.

Plymouth

Carol reported that her regular pair of gay men attendees were present at the monthly meeting, but no one else.

One is now a paid member and both wish to attend the annual meeting. She will be submitting a reminder notice of the meetings in the newspaper.

Keene

Roberta reported having 15 attendees this month; a very diverse group of grandparents, high-school kids, and everything in between; it made for rich conversation. She also noted that the meeting featured a youth with both parents in attendance.

Seacoast

Duncan reported that participation is way down, and has been that way for several meetings. At last meeting, there were 6, mostly the core group and moms. He's trying to assess why; suggested that perhaps the comfort level is high now. He noted that they are doing support meetings only, no programs. Duncan resolved to continue, to ensure that the support continues.

Straight Spouse Network

Duncan reported that this group is suffering the same lull as the Seacoast PFLAG chapter.

Lakes Region

Gayle reported that this chapter is in a weather-induced lull. The January meeting was cancelled due to -20 degree temperatures and the December meeting occurred during the season's first snowstorm, so that only 4 people attended.

North Country

David reported "I came, they didn't, I left."

Upper Valley

Not yet submitted.

Chapter Lull Discussion

Roberta noted that the Keene chapter has had its share of lulls in the past, but noted a recent surge in activity due to the visibility that came from the Keene Speaker Series collaboration. She asked all chapters to continue to hold meetings, to try to have some kind of program, to consider joining with welcoming and affirming churches.

Lisa added that she put together an hour-long video called "Forensic Psychology Today" with a transgender-based subject, and that it won first place in a contest. Sheila asked for a paragraph for the newsletter.

Sheila reminded everyone to consider the e-newsletter as a good place to put local and upcoming chapter information.

Roberta asked everyone to stay in touch with each other via e-mail so that committee meetings can be done online and not during the regular monthly meeting. Duncan reported that the Straight Spouse Network meets via private chat rooms and suggested that committees might consider same since everyone is present live. And, since chat rooms are accessible via the free AOL Instant Messenger, it would be cheap solution. Roberta asked Jeremy to put together a lesson on how to do this.

Adjournment

Duncan **moved** to adjourn. Lisa seconded. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 20:46.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Winnick, Webmaster