

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors Havenwood Heights Chapel, Concord, NH 21 September 2004

Call to Order

Roberta called the meeting to order at 19:05.

Directors Present: Roberta Barry, Lisa Hartley, Louis Hobbs, Margie Lindsley, Alicia Maggio, Carol Perkins, BarbieAnn Rounds, Gordon Sherman, Gayle Spelman, Jeremy Winnick

Directors Absent: Kit Carter, Sheila Dion, Duncan McInnes, Marianne Storer, Pat Storer

Business

Reorganization

Roberta reported that Cheryl Elliot has resigned in writing as treasurer. Gordon reported that he is now the treasurer. He has opened a new checking account for PFLAG-NH at the Bank of New Hampshire, and reports a balance of \$1579.48, with a couple of outstanding debts still to be paid. The old account has been closed. He purchased checks that are in duplicate form. He noted that every check written requires two signatures regardless of the amount.

Louis **moved** to pay the 2 outstanding debts. Alicia seconded. Passed unanimously.

Roberta reported that a new Post Office box has been opened in Concord for PFLAG's incoming mail. She also reported that the Helpline number has not changed but now rings at Gordon's house. Gordon reported that he spent \$30 to record voice mail for incoming Helpline calls. He noted that the Helpline is very active but that he's been able to keep up with the volume of calls.

Roberta reminded everyone to use the in-kind donation form for PFLAG-NH expenses paid and services performed without reimbursement.

Roberta reported that the amount of money missing is at the felony level. She reminded everyone that the Attorney General's Office has indicated that board members may not speak directly to Sheila or Cheryl. The board will have no role in how the case will resolve itself; this is up to the Attorney General's office only. Thus, the board is in a "wait" state, and that is all we can do.

PFLAG National had not received their portion of membership dues for the past two years, but never notified anyone. Because of that, National has wiped the slate clean and will not expect those dues to be paid. Roberta noted that this is why there was so much trouble with newsletters and chapter membership reconciliations.

Restructuring Draft

Roberta distributed a proposed PFLAG structure flowchart. The updated structure directly links each

individual chapter to National for dues, rosters, information, and support, bypassing the state board. National will now control membership rosters per chapter, and chapters will be individually responsible for keeping this information up-to-date and reporting updates to National. National will provide a master list of all chapters and members to the state board.

Louis asked why we would continue to have a state board with this new structure. Roberta replied that the centralized state board would continue to provide for an exchange of ideas between the chapters, as well as local services like the newsletter and Website.

Roberta noted that the updated structure eliminates membership money coming into the state board, which requires the board to find new ways to fund itself. Ideas: newsletter subscription, fund drive appeals, grants, and newsletter advertising. Lisa suggested that the state board could continue to provide support and information to the chapters as well, and that the chapters can be sources of advocacy and education for their members.

BarbieAnn noted that the structure would give the state board more time to fulfill its centralized duties, and to coordinate speaker bureau work.

In the updated structure, each chapter would be required to provide a representative to be present at the monthly state board meetings; this rep must be willing to write articles for the newsletter and assist with the speaker bureau and grant application needs. Louis asked whether the board should consider hiring someone to assist with grant writing.

Carol noted that this structure does increase the burden at each chapter, and noted that not all chapters are alike.

Roberta reported that she and Margie will be visiting National in October. Lisa noted that a full retreat-like discussion on this structure could easily be held.

Roberta asked that everyone consider the structure carefully during the next month.

Dues Restructuring

Roberta distributed two dues structure proposals. She noted that National requires \$15 per membership. The board discussed whether any dues should come to the state but did not reach a consensus. National will be sending rosters once a year in March and invoices in August.

Database

Roberta reported that the database is the biggest issue in the reorganization. She said that Sheila had provided an overview of PFLAG's database earlier this year and that it was complicated. Sheila had recommended then that

someone be trained in Microsoft Access formally, not through her; Roberta agreed with that. Gordon reported that a Microsoft Access course will be offered on October 5 and that he was willing to take it.

BarbieAnn asked why PFLAG-NH needs such a complicated database. Jeremy agreed but noted that it would take a lot of time create a much simpler database from scratch, but once done, it would be relatively easy to use and maintain.

Roberta stressed the need to get membership contact information up-to-date and asked that each chapter contact their members personally to do this.

Roberta asked the board to consider purchasing a laptop PC to be used as a mobile database. Jeremy offered to research the hardware and software needed to fulfill the board's needs and report to everyone within 2 weeks.

BarbieAnn **moved** to send Gordon to the MS Access course. Margie seconded. Passed unanimously.

Letter to Sheila

Roberta distributed a draft letter to Sheila that requests her to choose between resigning from the board or taking a leave of absence until the case against Cheryl is settled. Alicia agreed that the choice should be left up to Sheila, and recommended that the letter be sent as is.

Gordon **moved** to formalize the draft letter and submit it to Sheila. Alicia seconded. Passed unanimously.

Letter to Membership

Roberta distributed a draft letter to the membership that will disclose our financial difficulties. She asked that we not distribute the draft to anyone, but noted that we can use the contents and sentiment if we need to discuss the situation with someone.

Speaker Bureau

Margie reported that Roberta has been invited to speak at a teacher's group in Bow. Other events are in the works. Judy Shepard is coming to the New England College Simon Center, the Great Room. She hopes to get PFLAG involved with a dessert reception for that event. Gordon will speak to the Pinkerton student body (850 students), with smaller groups on a second day.

Roberta will be speaking at Winnisquam soon.

Curriculum

BarbieAnn provided an update. Roberta asked that she and Jeremy collaborate and present a formal report by the next board meeting. Roberta discussed some money-making potential from this, but BarbieAnn warned that the board would have to be careful not to infringe on anyone's copyright.

Political Watch

Louis announced a Boycott for Equality to be held on October 8 from dawn to midnight. The boycott covers everything: purchases, telephone calls, and going to work. The point is to hit the politicians in the pocketbook. More information can be found on their

Website: www.boycottforequality.org. This effort is the brainchild of a gay couple who are trying to encourage all GLBT people, allies, and small businesses to participate.

BarbieAnn reported on the state of same-sex marriage in NH. She noted that the federal marriage amendment is not dead.

Gordon reported that NH Freedom To Marry is redesigning their Website and that they are looking for photos to include on the site.

Chapter Reports

Lakes Region

Gayle reported that Paula Spink is still involved with the monthly meetings and that they are averaging attendance of 7-8 people. Gayle attended a multi-cultural market day and successfully raised some money selling buttons and stickers and cookies, netting \$73. She held a planning session in August for the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20. She is currently planning for a holiday potluck in December.

Concord – (from Margie via e-mail)

8/15 Meeting

Four members attended, no new people. There was a discussion on future programs for the fall. Some suggestions for a video program were: "Your Mom's a Lesbian," "Here's Lunch," "Have a Nice Day," and "Maybe We're Talking About a Different God." Barbie Ann will check availability of these videos. For honoring Coming Out day in October we discussed the possibility of a program with youth similar to the one last year with the NEC GSA kids.

Margie reminded the group she was going to the national conference in October the week of our next meeting.

We lent support for one member whose mother had recently died.

Advertising was discussed. At the moment a core meeting hasn't been scheduled. Margie use email for items needing discussed.

9/19 Meeting

Ten people attended the meeting (2 new). Each of the new people attending have teenage children. There was a discussion on sexuality and was in which to speak to youth about GLBT issues. Raye Ellen discussed her work with youth future goals to become a counselor.

The group discussed fear. Margie mentioned Jeff Perkins' book and what a great resource it was.

Cy & Gordon's son who's living in Canada married a couple in MA. We had a brief discussion on Gay Marriage in Canada vs. US.

Gordon ask for a moment of silence to honor Jim Bretz founder of the Gay Info Line and past member of the

New Hampshire Gay Men's Choir, who recently died. Also, Reverend Bob Wood who had a heart attack.

Margie reminded everyone about the National Convention next month in Utah. She and Roberta will be attending.

For coming out month in October we will have GLBT youth again speaking with a program similar to the one we did last year. Margie will contact NEC's GSA members and other youth speakers.

Brief meeting with several members in regards to updating our current membership list for the board and national. Paul, Margie, and Gordon will work on.

Upper Valley

BarbieAnn reported an attendance of 5 this month. She is planning to show "Out in the Cold" in October. This will be advertised for free in the local paper. A Diversity Fair is coming up; October is looking like a busy month. She noted that she has some people willing to work at these events; she doesn't feel like she's the only one doing all the work anymore.

Plymouth

Carol attended the August meeting, waited for a half an hour, and left when no one showed up. At the September meeting, attended by a couple of regulars, they reported that they had attended the August meeting but no one was there. She was not sure how this happened.

Carol reported that the Plymouth chapter donated \$50 to the Greater Manchester AIDS Project in memory of a member who died of AIDS. She also noted that she continues to support the GSA at Plymouth State College.

Seacoast

Marianne was absent.

Keene

Roberta reported attendance of 12 at the last meeting. She's reaching out to youth since there is no Outright group nearby. Chapter meetings are split into 2 groups; kids and adults which then merge at the end to share what each group has discussed. She's observed noticeable evolution in some attendees. Keene hosted a potluck supper in August, attended by 15. Keene State will have a Diversity Day; PFLAG will have a booth. She's trying to tap into a group called Mothers Uniting that meets in the same church.

Straight Spouse Network

Duncan was absent.

North Country

David was absent.

Adjournment

Margie **moved** to adjourn. Gordon seconded. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 21:10.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Winnick, recording secretary