

# Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

Havenwood Heights Chapel, Concord, NH

19 October 2004

### Call to Order

Roberta called the meeting to order at 18:40.

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

Directors Absent: Kit Carter, Duncan McInnes

Immediately following the call to order, Sheila arrived to deliver her answer to the request made of her to choose between resignation or taking a leave of absence. She also asked to address the board, not on Cheryl's behalf but on her own. Roberta asked to maintain silence as directed by the Attorney General's office. Sheila noted that the case was no longer before the AG and that she deserved the right to address the board. BarbieAnn replied that the board is not at the point where it can process and resolve the issue; it's focusing on the day-to-day items needed to keep the organization running. Sheila said that by the time everyone is ready to hear her, it will be too late, everyone will have already made up their minds. BarbieAnn replied that she would not judge anyone, that she is only concerned about the money. Sheila noted that PFLAG would not be in this position right now if it had worked with her to resolve it. She added that she was sorry that no one wanted to hear what she had to say. Pat replied that it was not at all personal to Sheila. Sheila departed; Roberta thanked everyone for being strong.

Roberta brought everyone up to date on the status of the case and a letter she had written. Lisa **moved** to keep confidential the information in the letter. Marianne seconded. Passed unanimously.

### Minutes of Prior Meetings

BarbieAnn **moved** to accept the June, July, and September board meeting minutes as written. Alicia seconded. Passed unanimously.

### Business

#### Treasurer

Gordon reported that there is \$1200 in the account after all the bills have been paid (stationary, envelopes, and telephone).

Gordon showed everyone what the PFLAGPole newsletter looks like. Gordon opened it and showed everyone the scholarship recipient pages. Roberta noted that this is new and will continue in the future.

Jeremy provided an invoice for the new laptop, noting that the total cost is \$685.28.

Roberta noted that Cheryl had failed to provide quarterly reports of Sheila's wages to the NH Department of Employment Security. The NHES is attempting to levy a \$50 fine for this delinquency. Roberta is trying to get the fine forgiven. She noted that she was first alerted to this in April, and spoke to Cheryl who promised to file the report.

Margie noted that as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, we have to file reports with the IRS. She's trying to figure out whether each chapter has to file or just the state board. Roberta will be going to National to clarify this.

Roberta agreed to present information at the November board meeting on donation limits to 501(c)(3)'s and how you can use them to reduce your tax bill. Gordon asked how the money will flow to national, state, and chapters before he makes his next donation.

Roberta asked the any further questions about treasury be given to Gordon.

#### Political Watch

BarbieAnn provided a report on the future of the country based on who becomes president in January.

Roberta reported that PFLAG had a table at the National Parent-Teacher Association conference this year, and had to for fight it.

#### Database

Jeremy provided a brief tutorial on how to use the new laptop and how to access the database. Gordon offered to be the first person to possess the laptop.

#### Letter to Sheila

Roberta opened the letter from Sheila, noting that she is putting the ball back in our court by having written both a letter of resignation and one for taking a leave of absence.

Gordon **moved** to accept the letter of leave of absence. Lou noted that the case is against Cheryl and not Sheila so he agrees that the leave of absence is the appropriate way right now. BarbieAnn seconded. Passed unanimously. Roberta said that she would respond personally to Sheila informing her of our decision.

#### Speaker Bureau

Roberta noted that PFLAG shall go on, despite having severely reduced money and resources. Roberta noted that the Website form is functioning and necessary for the reporting of all speaking engagements.

Marianne reported that she has been working with the UU Church in Portsmouth on its way to becoming a welcoming congregation. She addressed a congregation of 40 on the subject of TG for 2 hours. This church is

having an LGBT service in November and will vote on the matter a week later.

Margie reported on the Judy Shepard event at NEC and obtained a video that speaks to hate crimes in general. Gordon has already used the video at his Pinkerton speaking event.

Margie and Gordon manned a table at Colby Sawyer.

Lisa spoke in Andover and will speak soon at NEC. She will be doing a conference at the Grappone Center on TG.

BarbieAnn reported that Roberta spoke and showed the film "Out in the Cold" at her latest chapter meeting. Roberta also learned that the Lutheran church is going through their own "open and affirming" process.

Gordon is going to Dublin Church to facilitate a panel for their UCC church's open and affirming process. He gave three 40-minute presentations to Pinkerton Academy, including the "Out in the Cold" video and the crumpled man opener, expanding it to include all discriminated groups. He relayed a story on how important it is to not react badly to coming out, as that sometimes leads to suicide.

Carol and her son spoke at Plymouth college.

Louis spoke on behalf of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

Louis and Roberta spoke to several classes at Winnisquam High School.

Roberta hosted a table at the Holly Near concert.

Roberta noted the table for the Holly Near concert. Roberta asked to be reminded of the Women's Expo and Gay Men's Chorus. Roberta gave a preview of the upcoming conference in Salt Lake City, including a warning about putting too much trust in a single person.

#### Reorganization and Dues Structure

Lisa **moved** to table this to the next meeting. Marianne seconded. Passed unanimously.

## Chapter Reports

### Upper Valley

BarbieAnn reported an attendance of 18 at the last meeting, including Roberta.

### Concord – *(from Margie via e-mail)*

Twelve adults attended the meeting. This included a young woman and man who were there to be presenters at the program and the young man's partner. Various subjects were covered during the meeting.

The yearly Boston Gay Pride parades were enthusiastically endorsed as an occasion of "major" love and acceptance within the gay community. PFLAG marchers are often cheered by onlookers!

The now defunct New Hampshire Gay Pride parade was affectionately discussed - having been held on a Friday night in June with a good turnout of marchers but few spectators along the route. After several years NH Gay Pride organizers changed it to a Saturday morning in Manchester. However the arrangements proved to be a lot to handle and the turnout wasn't much better than Concord. It has not been held in over five years.

It was noted that on October 4, Matt Shepherd's mother Judy spoke at New England College to a packed house of college students. Several PFLAG parents were also present. Her main theme for the young crowd was the importance of registering to vote, then voting. She also spoke of watching one's language so as not to offend people.

## Adjournment

Lisa praised the board for its energy. Marianne **moved** to adjourn. Lisa seconded. Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 20:28.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeremy Winnick, recording secretary