

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

Minutes of the Meeting of the State Council

Sherman Home and Havenwood Auditorium, Concord NH

18 October 2005

Call to Order

Carol called the meeting to order at 18:35.

Council members present: Roberta Barry, Margie Lindsley, Carol Perkins, Gordon Sherman, Jeremy Winnick

Others present: Cy Sherman, Mo Baxley, Mikayla Howden, and Keith Clark and Angel from Code M.

Council members absent: Kit Carter, Alicia Maggio, BarbieAnn Rounds, Gayle Spelman, Marianne Storer, Pat Storer

Minutes of Prior Meetings

Gordon **moved** to accept the minutes of the 9/20 meeting as written. Carol seconded. Passed unanimously.

Guest Speakers

Code M

Keith Clark is one of the mentors at Code M; Angel is one of the members. Keith described the project as a safe place for GBQ youth to meet. The project is 2 years old and is funded under an HIV empowerment project. It is the only place in New England with a drop-in center. The center provides everything from condoms to safe sex teaching. They are looking to PFLAG-NH for referrals.

Angel found Code M through an online search. He described it as a very comfortable, relaxing, friendly, and inviting environment. He's trying to urge his friends to go. Keith said that his favorite review of Code M came from one of the attendees: "I met my two best friends here." He added that Code M provides rides for attendees who don't wish to step through the doorway alone. He noted that Code M's survival depends on getting more attendees (numbers, not names).

Keith compared Code M to outright groups, noting that Code M does not apply any pressure on the attendees to be coupled.

The center is located at 111 Lock Street in Nashua, in a separate building from the Southern NH AIDS Task Force. It is open Monday through Friday, with an advocacy meeting on the second Monday of the month. They have periodic dances that attract 25 people. Roberta asked if we could join them at one of their advocacy meetings; Keith agreed but noted that they are still trying to build adult support. Jeremy agreed to add a link to Code M from the PFLAG-NH Website.

Gill Foundation

Mo described the Democracy Project, noting that the Gill Foundation decided that instead of giving money to groups, they would provide a list enhancement and management service. NH was one of the first 6 groups to benefit. Gill does this in order to allow groups to work together while maintaining the confidentiality of each individual group.

The service is given free to 501(c)3 organizations. Gill uses a company called Astro Data Management. Upon receipt of the member list, Astro matches the names against voter files, phone number lists, etc, in order to clean up the list. They'll do this once a year. They provide additional information too. For example, how often a member votes (but not which party

they are registered). They also will tell you how many lists a given name is on, but will not identify which lists. This is useful for fundraising, since voters and folks who appear on multiple lists traditionally give more than others. Demographic information is provided too.

Most groups discover that most of their members are not on any other list. Astro will allow, but only with a signed contract, for someone to mail to someone's list. Mo is the state liaison for Gill in NH. She reported that she found PFLAG-NH's cleaned-up list within NH FTM's files and has turned it over to us.

Mo noted that Gill also provides training for groups to help them fundraise. The next database drop to Gill will be in August. Roberta recognized and thanked Mo for the contribution (and a donation) she made today.

Business

Treasurer's Report

Carol distributed the treasurer's report, showing an October 15 balance of \$2684.80. Margie noted that she is in possession of the bag of bracelets that wasn't paid for (owned by the council). She will pay for a portion of the bag.

The council discussed transferring the bulk mailing permit from Manchester to Concord. Consensus: transfer.

Roberta reported that she submitted yet another dividend check from the Johnson & Johnson stock. She also submitted another donation. The council discussed how to integrate these at-large donors into the database. Roberta reminded everyone to send a thank-you letter to donors indicating that the letter serves as their receipt and that they received no goods or services from the donation. We do not need to give out our tax-ID number in these letters.

Roberta noted that Mo will be assisting in a workshop that will teach us how to ask for money. Mo noted that most people who donate are happy to have been approached. She also urged us to meet face-to-face with prospective donors, noting that that is much more effective than e-mails.

The council discussed the need for online donation capability. Consensus: We need a PayPal button on our Website. Jeremy agreed to work on this.

Speaker Bureau

Roberta noted that she would still like to be a recipient of the speaker bureau reports from the Website. Jeremy agreed to ensure that she retains this capability.

Council Appointment

Margie **moved** to officially accept Mikayla Howden as a member of the council. Gordon seconded. Passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Mikayla noted that PFLAG-NH is welcome at the Howden House at any time. Regular meetings there are on the second or third Saturday of the month.

Roberta read a farewell letter from Lisa Hartley, which also provided her new address.

Chapter Reports

Chapter reports were given by Gordon (Concord), Roberta (Keene), and Carol (Plymouth). Details were not recorded as these were given during the newsletter assembly activity.

Roberta provided information about an upcoming Keene Film Festival, including films “Dangerous Living” and “Fish Can’t Fly.” She reported that she’s trying to develop a regional conference on Cape Cod in order to be close to a safe house

for gay youth. Finally, she’s headed to Washington for a meeting with PFLAG National.

Adjournment

Margie **moved** to adjourn. Carol seconded. Passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 20:58.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Winnick, recording secretary