

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, NH

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the State Council

Havenwood Heights Auditorium, Concord NH

Saturday, 18 November 2006

Call to Order

Carol called the meeting to order at 10:28. She welcomed all attendees and noted that PFLAG's mission is still very much needed, as evidenced by a question raised by a high-school student during a recent speaking engagement: "How can you tell if you are GLBT, and can it be treated?"

As a preview of the reorganization proposal on the agenda, Carol noted that since the last Annual Meeting in 2005, one PFLAG-NH chapter has closed, another has ceased holding regular meetings, and another still has regular meetings but almost never has new attendees.

Council members present: Roberta Barry, Margie Lindsley, Alicia Maggio, Carol Perkins, BarbieAnn Rounds, Gordon Sherman, Gayle Spelman, Jeremy Winnick.

Minutes of Prior Meetings

Jack Barry **moved** to accept the minutes of the 2005 Annual Meeting as written. Roberta seconded. Passed unanimously.

Business

Acceptance of the Leadership Positions

Carol introduced the candidates for leadership positions of the Council for 2007. For co-chair positions: Carol Perkins and Margie Lindsley. For treasurer: Carol Perkins. For clerk: Jeremy Winnick. For webmaster: Jeremy Winnick. No further nominations were offered from the floor.

Roberta **moved** to accept the entire slate of candidates. Christine Marcroft seconded. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Carol distributed the treasurer's fiscal year report and discussed highlights. Roberta asked why the donation from Seacoast Gay Men was not shown. Carol replied that the donation arrived after October 1.

The ending balance as of September 30 was \$3265.33. BarbieAnn asked if any money is coming in from our former treasurer. Carol replied that nothing has come in but that Wayne P. Coull, Assist. County Attorney for Belknap County, has written assuring us that she is still responsible to repay us.

Jack **moved** to accept the treasurer's report pending audit. Gayle seconded. Passed unanimously.

Northeast Regional Director's Report

Roberta distributed the Northeast Regional Director's report and discussed highlights. She commended the council for its ability to get so much work done despite the continuing manpower shortage. She pointed out that only 1 newsletter was produced in 2006 because our editor stepped down and we were unable to replace him.

Roberta recognized certain attendees, thanking each for their efforts: Penny Cullitan, Geri Cannon, and Lee Newman.

Roberta thanked everyone who came and/or donated to the Worcester conference. Attendance was 450, drawn from all over the country. She compared this conference to that held in Chicago a week later, noting that the Chicago organizers

chose not to collaborate with other organizations and suffered for it with an attendance of only 130 people.

Roberta reported that PFLAG and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) are collaborating to get straight people on board for GLBT equality. She noted that Jennifer Brown, author of *Straightforward*, was a plenary speaker at the Chicago conference. Her message: "Take off your mask, Do the ask, Give them a task." She said that it starts by simply wearing the PFLAG button. Roberta urged everyone to read the final page of her report, which provides a lot of notes and hints that she gleaned from the conferences.

Roberta stressed the need to work with the transgender community. She shared that one attendee had written to her saying that he had given up on PFLAG but as a result of the conference was willing to give it another try.

Roberta reported that she continues to meet with congressmen on behalf of GLBT folks. She reminded us that National PFLAG provides scholarship programs.

She urged everyone to keep PFLAG's database up to date by reporting contact information changes to us.

Penny reported that she's working on a Safe Schools project for the NEA, including providing books to NEA's regional directors.

Guest Speakers – Lee Newman & Samantha Newman

Lee has been the regional director of SAFE-NH for 4 years and is now the executive director of National SAFE (Stop Abuse for Everyone). He noted that his organization faces the same manpower issues that we have and hopes to join forces with us to mutually help each other.

Lee noted that he is a domestic violence advocate. SAFE exists serves the underserved populations of victims of domestic violence and does not discriminate on the basis of orientation or gender. Anyone can be a victim of abuse and thus he's proud that they accept victims who are turned away from other domestic violence organizations. He's reaching out to PFLAG because there's strength in working together.

Sam told us a part of her story and read a letter from her mother. Roberta promised to send the letter to Jeremy for placement on the Web site.

Comments/Additions to Chapter Reports

Gordon thanked the Marcrofts for their important work to keep the Manchester chapter viable. Lee Marcroft noted that Manchester has the largest GLBT demographic in NH and is worth keeping.

Gordon reported that the half of all helpline calls seek help; the remainder seek advice.

Carol reported on a transgender day remembrance, noting that it turned into a collaborative opportunity that could yield more attendance at her chapter meetings.

Margie thanked the Marcrofts for assuming much of the operation of the Concord chapter and for their donations to pay for advertising.

Gayle reported a very successful fundraising effort for the Lakes Region chapter.

Margie reported that Concord Outright has resumed its weekly meeting, now held at the NH Freedom to Marry offices each Thursday.

Carol asked that all chapters provide a complete status report for the fiscal year October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006. This must be reported to National by December 22.

Proposal for the Reorganization of PFLAG-NH

Carol distributed the proposal:

1. Due to poor attendance at chapter meetings, we propose that PFLAG-NH will hold one meeting each month at a central location.
2. This meeting will be in Concord on the 3rd Sunday each month.
3. This meeting will be held at the NHFTM office space in Concord.
4. Suggested time: 2 to 4pm. (Travel will be in daylight most of the year.) Support meeting: 2 to 2:30...Program: 2:30 to 4pm.
5. Each chapter will host a meeting. A special program can be planned, with a speaker or video, etc. There will be an article in the Concord Monitor each month regarding our meeting and program. Important to get the public involved.
6. Each chapter will continue membership on a local level for 2007. Sending information and \$15 per each member to National PFLAG and send financial report to National.
7. Following a six month period with this new plan, we will assess the changes and make a final decision in June 2007 for our future.

Discussion followed. Margie noted that when she joined PFLAG there were 2 paid staff to do the work of keeping 7 chapters organized. Now there are 4 unpaid volunteers trying to duplicate that work, 3 of whom already have chapter responsibilities, and something has to change to keep the organization alive. She thinks that having a single chapter will simplify the paperwork effort.

Roberta noted that with the coffers emptied, there is no money to hire someone to do this paperwork. We have tried the decentralized method this year but there are insufficient people to sustain it. She noted that by taking advantage of Mo Baxley's infrastructure at NHFTM, we can offer meetings that are in a neutral space rather than in a church.

Carol noted that if the proposal is accepted, it would start in January.

Gordon noted that Concord currently meets from 3-5pm and that the proposed earlier start time is the most difficult aspect

for him. He worried that the meeting will be run as the Concord chapter has been run, and that he won't have a say in the meetings. Roberta replied that each chapter will take turns organizing and planning the meeting. The first 45 minutes of each meeting will be support. After that, the program will be run as designed by the chapter responsible for that month.

Roberta noted that acceptance of the proposal does not mean that individual chapters cannot continue to meet whenever and wherever they wish.

BarbieAnn noted that attendees who would come to an Upper Valley meeting would not drive to Concord. However, she agreed to be in the rotation to provide a program at the Concord meeting.

Jack noted that support is best given locally, but education and advocacy is best provided from a centralized location.

BarbieAnn agreed, suggesting that each satellite chapter continue to hold support meetings and leave program-based meetings to Concord.

Penny urged the continuation of a centralized method to handle membership paperwork and suggested that finances be handled similarly.

Roberta noted that we have until August to work this out. She recommended that the Concord chapter meetings move to the NHFTM office in January. Gordon offered to be at the old meeting location to ensure that attendees know that the meeting location has changed.

Paul Belyea agreed with the change in location but worried about making the transition too quickly.

Margie noted that the council members who came up with this proposal remain open minded and are willing to make changes if the proposal isn't working out.

Agreement to proceed by consensus.

Core group met to review affiliation process with National via documents provided by Roberta, NE Regional Director.

Adjournment

No formal date was set for the next meeting.

Gordon **moved** to adjourn. Roberta seconded. Passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Winnick, clerk