

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

February 2, 2002

## Annual Meeting Minutes

The PFLAG Annual Meeting took place on Saturday, February 2, 2002, at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Concord, NH. There were 24 people in attendance.

John opened the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

### Items Discussed:

1. John began the business meeting by recognizing past board members in attendance and their contributions to PFLAG NH. Those recognized were Les Norman, Lyn Kaufman and Judy Putnam.
2. The outgoing board members honored Betsy Janeway and Betty Batchelder for their contributions to PFLAG. Betsy was voted in as an honorary director and given a gift. Betty Batchelder was also given a gift from the board.
3. **Previous Minutes:** It was acknowledged that the minutes of the 2001 annual meeting were incomplete. Lisa Hartley made the motion to accept the minutes as they were and Les Norman seconded. All approved, the motion carried.
4. **President's Speech:** John Monroe, President of PFLAG NH, 2001 spoke about the highlights and challenges of the past year. The highlights included: initiatives and partnerships with other groups, i.e. partnering with GLSEN on the "Safe Schools" letter to school Superintendents offering the book "Hatred in the Hallways"; bringing in outside representation to the board with GLSEN, the Straight Spouse Network, a Transgender representative and a representative from the Concord Gay Teachers group; and modifying the by-laws to add transgender persons to the list of groups supported by PFLAG, replacing the phrase "satellite chapter" with "regional chapter" wherever it was used, and some modifications to the section describing the nomination process.

The challenges John spoke of included: finding a new direction with the loss of Les Norman and Betsy Janeway; functioning without an administrative assistant due to the loss of Becky Larson; weathering the 9/11 tragedy in good financial form; and getting through the challenge of trying to change the authorized signatories for

PFLAG NH's investment accounts with Fidelity Investments since last spring.

John related that this has been a rebuilding year at the Board level and that the year ahead will continue to be a challenge. With membership being down, Chapter leadership morale low, all Chapters were searching for ways to get more attendees to meetings and for ways to get members to become leadership participants. Also, John reported that the PFLAG NH Treasurer had resigned.

John spoke about his hopes that increasing the activity levels of all Chapters and the State board will increase attendance at the Chapters' support meetings and increase the public's awareness of PFLAG's existence. New ideas for increased activity include distributing business cards that say "Give your parents a second chance - Bring them to PFLAG", to the youth attending the various OUTRIGHT groups in the state; follow-up efforts to the School Superintendent's letter; and putting more time and energy into the Speaker's Bureau.

John closed by thanking the members of the outgoing Board, welcoming the new Board, and thanking the PFLAG membership in general for their support, welcoming any constructive input and assistance.

### 5. Subcommittee Reports

#### **Finance:**

A financial report for the year 2001 was distributed to all present. The report showed a beginning balance as of 1/1/02 of \$3,436.14 in the PFLAG NH account with the Bank of New Hampshire, and an ending balance of \$28,870.65 in the Fidelity Investment Account. Judy Putnam made a motion to accept the report and Betty Batchelder seconded. All approved, the motion carried

A suggestion was made that PFLAG NH should spend more money for outreach rather than "hoarding" it. John Monroe pointed out several instances in the financial report where money was spent on outreach and also a sizeable donation to PFLAG National to assist them through the financial difficulties, due to their mail being quarantined.

Ruth Smith spoke of plans to develop a speaker bureau with GLSEN, and Margie Lindsley spoke about the purchase of more "Hatred in the Hallways" books for the Superintendent's project. Hanz Kaufman made the suggestion to increase dues to increase money spent on advertising, since the amount spent last year was minimal.

**Membership:** Sheila Dion, Administrative Assistant, distributed current Chapter membership lists to all Chapter Leaders. All Board members received a graph, broken down into chapters, of dues and contributions received from the Fall 2001 membership drive. Dues and contributions received as of the annual meeting totaled \$3,175.00, reflecting a total of 83 members renewing their membership.

### **Chapter Reports:**

#### North Country:

Doris Youngholm reported low numbers at chapter meetings. They did obtain one new member from a display they created at the local public library for Gay History month. However, the library received a negative response from some community members who threatened to protest at the library trustees meeting, but never showed up for the meeting. The trustees were supportive of the display.

#### Plymouth:

Carol Perkins reported few members at chapter meetings. She did obtain one new member through advertising the meetings on Public Access TV. She has written letters in the local newspapers and arranged for Lisa Hartley to come and speak. Carol says she would have more programs if more people attended. She also discussed possible joint meetings with the Lakes Region chapter.

#### Lakes Region:

Paula Spink reported that the chapter received news coverage twice in the past year; once in a letter to the editor, and she was also interviewed by Foster's Daily on same sex marriage. She reports that 2001 has been their least active year, averaging about 8 people attending meetings.

#### Upper Valley:

Nancy Mogielnicki reported the following:

The Upper Valley Chapter of PFLAG NH continued to hold monthly meetings during the

calendar year 2001. This was our second full year of meeting as a reorganized group. Meetings are held on each 2nd Monday of the month at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Auditorium A, 7-9 PM.

Meetings vary in scope, formality and attendance. Highlights of this year included hosting a regional PFLAG meeting at Dartmouth Medical School on May 5, producing a program on "The Transgender Revolution" with an endocrinologist and several transgender members of the Upper Valley community, having a meeting on sexual orientation, gender identity and religion which was attended by representatives of many different faiths, and working on safe schools issues. We reviewed several videos and found them to be an excellent means of stimulating fruitful discussion.

We will continue to meet on the same schedule for the calendar year 2002 and look forward to continuing our association with the state organization.

Barbie Ann Rounds added that providing programs draw more people to chapter meetings. She suggested spending more money on monthly advertising of meetings.

#### Concord:

Margie Lindsley reported that two new people attended the last chapter meeting. One was a mom of a transgender daughter, age 9. She told her story and has had the support and help of Lisa Hartley. Not much support in the elementary school. More education is needed. Lisa has helped with referrals to medical offices, etc. The other new person also had transgender questions and stated that with his disabilities, he was not given much help when he was in high school. The remainder of the meeting was on transgender issues and our need to get out and do more education. On a positive note, some TV shows are showing good role models for transgender and gay/lesbian people.

Margie also reminded everyone that there is early online registration for anyone who wants to attend the national conference in September. Margie is planning on attending.

#### Speaker Bureau News:

Margie Lindsley reported that the speaker bureau received a request from Nashua Senior High School's Gay Straight Alliance. Margie and

Gordon will try to go. Duncan McInnes will be the speaker for the Straight Spouse Network. Margie reported that at least four schools responded to the offer for the book "Hatred in the Hallways".

#### Transgender Network:

Lisa Hartley spoke more in depth about the 9-year-old transgender child whose mother attended the last Concord chapter meeting. Lisa feels it illustrates that more transgender youth will come out at an earlier age, and that PFLAG needs to be prepared with information and education. She highly recommended that chapters have the PFLAG brochure "Our Transgender Children" on hand.

Lisa also distributed an article she wrote entitled "Culturally Induced Stress Disorder".

#### Keene:

Roberta Barry reported that their last scheduled meeting was cancelled because it fell on New Year's Day. She also reported that Jean and John had received some new inquiries about PFLAG, and hope new people will attend the next meeting on February 5<sup>th</sup>. In regards to networking, through contacts in the SAU 29 Diversity Committee, a GLSEN representative was invited to make a presentation to a group of about 30 educators from the Keene schools. Roberta also feels that more programs will draw more people.

#### Seacoast:

John Monroe listed several programs that the Seacoast chapter held in 2001. John also reflected on the high and low points of last year. The high points included being elected president of PFLAG, Diane's energy and enthusiasm, bringing lots of activity to the CORE group, the Facilitator's Workshop in March, the return of the PFLAG NH website, the Northeast Regional Leadership Strategic meeting, and the Market Square Days display.

John pointed out that the low points were identical to the previous years; declining activity and attendance, lack of people continuing to attend and support others, and the lack of new people becoming helpers or leaders. John had also tried to organize a "Walk With The One You Love", in Portsmouth last summer, that didn't go over well due to the last minute organization.

John went on to say that his own job situation has been, and continues to be volatile. It has interfered with his ability to participate in the Chapter

activities to the extent that he had previously done. He stated that with help from Diane and the website, they have been able to get better publicity for the Chapter support meetings, but that all NH chapters are feeling a membership decline.

Looking ahead, John feels they need to continue working on the chapter. He feels there is a continuing need for publicity to let people know of their existence. Hopefully more publicity will bring new people to their meetings to change "attendees" into "members", to get new faces, new ideas, and new hands to the CORE meetings, to share in the work and to update program offerings.

#### Regional Director's Report

Peg Gage, PFLAG Regional Director spoke about hoping to see PFLAG NH receive an award for a special project. Peg also spoke about her hopes that someone from NH steps up to take the RD position that she will vacate in September. Peg went on to say that National's revenue problems were beginning to recover and that all non-profits are hurting. National received a \$40,000 grant from the Arcus Foundation and \$8000 from PFLAG affiliates.

Peg reminded the group that PFLAG NH is not fully affiliated with National yet and hopes they do soon because they are missing out on grant opportunities and other services that National offers to affiliates.

Peg also reminded the group that the National PFLAG conference is coming up and urged people to attend.

#### Advocacy

Ruth Smith reported that it was a quiet year for advocacy and that they were not aware of any bills in congress, pro or anti to our causes, for the coming year. A bill to not recognize civil unions from Vermont was defeated. There are 7-8 regional meetings planned around the state this year regarding Freedom To Marry. Also, the 5013c status of Freedom To Marry was still unknown.

6. **Advisory Council:** No Advisory Council members attended.

#### 7. **Nominating Committee Report:**

Lisa Nachbaur, (GLSEN)  
Barbie Ann Rounds, (Upper Valley)  
Heather Driscoll, (Seacoast)

Paula Spink, (inc.) (Lakes Region, 3<sup>rd</sup> term)  
Lisa Hartley, (inc.) (Concord, 2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Roberta Barry, (inc.) (Keene, 2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
Carol Perkins, (inc.) (Plymouth, 2<sup>nd</sup> term)  
John Monroe, (inc.) (Seacoast, 2<sup>nd</sup> term)

The Secretary cast one ballot. There was one write-in, Nora Tuthill from the Seacoast, who was not present at the meeting. Gordon Sherman moved to close the nominations and Carol Perkins seconded the motion. All approved, the motion carried. All nominees were elected.

8. **General Discussion:** The “Hatred in the Hallways” project was discussed. Roberta Barry has distributed about 11 books so far, and has plans to send a follow-up letter to Superintendents to get more books out to the schools. Peg Gage offered \$500 from National to purchase more books. BarbieAnn Rounds requested some of the books for GLEARN and would also like to offer them to Superintendents in Vermont, near the Hanover area.
9. **Adjournment:** Cy Sherman moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 pm. Ruth Smith seconded. All approved, the motion carried.